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Measuring Up

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT
on the performance
of the
GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

1996-97 Results

JUNE 1997

Alberta
GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

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Measuring Up

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For consolidated financial statements, see the companion publication entitled ***"Balance, Responsibility, Opportunity: 1996-97, the Annual Report of the Government of Alberta"****.*

E-mail site: measuringup@treas.gov.ab.ca.

Website address: http://www.treas.gov.ab.ca

Copies may be obtained by phoning: Alberta Treasury Communications
(403) 427-4414

Measuring Up

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Measuring Up

A word about Measuring Up . . .

This is the fourth annual *Measuring Up* report to Albertans on the performance of the Alberta government. The results reported herein relate to the Government's Business Plan that was published as part of *Budget '97*. This report is required pursuant to section 10 of the Government Accountability Act.

The implementation of Alberta's performance measurement system is a work in progress. We recognize that to serve the public's information needs well, and to assist decision makers in their public policy and budget deliberations, we need to seek continuous improvements to the system.

Purpose of the report

The report serves two purposes. First, *Measuring Up* is an accountability document. It provides a report to Albertans on the results achieved compared to targets set in the Government Business Plan. Combined with the financial results released in the *Public Accounts*, they provide Albertans with comprehensive information on both financial and program results.

Second, *Measuring Up* is intended to help policy makers improve the quality of programs and services for Albertans. By measuring and tracking results, we can look at what is working well and what is not. And we can make choices about whether to revise, retain, or drop certain programs.

The core measures

Measures are reported for each of the government's three core businesses: People, Prosperity and Preservation. **The goals are taken from the 1997-2000 Government Business Plan.**

Measuring Up contains 27 core performance measures that are related to 17 government goals. Two of the measures are drafts that we will begin reporting on in next year's *Measuring Up*, and one is still under development.

Why so few measures? Just as there are only a few instruments on the dashboard of your car, we have selected a few key indicators that best represent the overall performance of the Alberta Government. Just as a car's instruments cannot tell you everything about your car, the core performance measures cannot tell us everything about the government's performance. While not necessarily complete, they do provide a rough measure of the progress Alberta is making in key areas such as the economy, health, justice, environment, and community. Most of the 27 core measures also have supplemental information that provides context.

Each of the government ministries also has a set of key performance measures that are related to their business plan goals and objectives. Ministry measures provide more detailed information on specific program performance and can help diagnose problem areas. These measures, which are reported in ministry annual reports released in the fall of each year, provide information on results achieved in ministry programs and services, and provide further context for the *Measuring Up* core measures.

New for this year

- Some of the measures have been revised or modified, and a new measure has been added (Infrastructure Capacity).
- Two proposed measures have been introduced for information (Heritage Appreciation and Intergovernmental Relations), and will be reported on beginning in 1999.
- Measures have been grouped by Government Business Plan goal.
- Key strategies which relate to each goal have been taken from the Government Business Plan.

An invitation to rate our performance

We encourage you to read *Measuring Up* and let us know what you think. There's a feedback sheet at the back of this report for you to mail or fax to us. You may also contact us via e-mail at measuringup@treas.gov.ab.ca.

- investing only in areas where we will see an increase in the quality of the program or service
- continuing to promote policies that attract business and bring jobs to Alberta
- maintaining a strong Alberta in a strong and united Canada
- continuing to listen to Albertans.

That agenda was reflected in the government's 1996-99 business plan goals, priorities and strategies.

Overall, government's actions have reflected the agenda that was set. Fiscal responsibility continued to be a top priority of government and substantial progress was made in getting spending in line with revenues and paying down Alberta's debt. Reinvestment initiatives in 1996 were designed to address pressure points in Albertans' key priorities of health and education. Targeted reinvestments were made primarily in those two areas, but also in programs for seniors and improvements to Alberta's transportation links. Alberta's economy continued to grow with more jobs being created.

The following are the highlights of areas where good progress has been made and other areas where improvement is needed.

Good progress has been made in . . .

- **Life expectancy** - Albertans have one of the highest life expectancies in the world. Life expectancy has increased since 1991.

- **Births to children (mothers under age 18)** - The rate of babies born to young women under 18 dropped by 17% in 1995 compared with 1991; however, Alberta's rate is still higher than the Canadian average.

- **Literacy and numeracy skills for young Albertans** - the percentage of grade 9 students achieving acceptable standards in both language arts and math is up in 1996. Language arts scores are up from 82% to 88%, while math scores are up from 66% to 69%.

- **Family income distribution** - The number of Alberta families with incomes less than $20,000 declined to 10.3% in 1995.

- **Taxation load** - Alberta continues to have the lowest personal income tax rate in Canada.

- **Net debt** - By the end of 1996-97, net debt, excluding pension liabilities was down to $3.7 billion.

- **Job creation** - 157,300 jobs were created between December 1992 and December 1996, well above the target set.

- **Days lost to disputes** - Alberta continues to have a positive labour relations environment. The number of days lost to labour disputes dropped by over 50% in 1996.

- **Crime rate** - Violent crimes in Alberta have dropped by 4.9% and property crimes are down by 4.4%.

- **Air quality** - No days of poor air quality were reported in 1996.

- **Land quality** - Land productivity has improved over the 1971-80 base.

Areas for improvement include . . .

- **High school completion rate** - Alberta's high school completion rate remained unchanged at 69% in 1996, below the target of 75%.

- **Math scores** - Although there were improvements in 1996, math skills are still below the target of 85% of students meeting acceptable standards.

- **Births to children** - The rate of young women having children has declined significantly, but Alberta's rate is still greater than the Canadian average.

- **Private sector funding of research and development** - Alberta's rate of funding is below the comparable Canadian rate.

- **Violent crime rate** - Alberta's property crime rate has fallen below the Canadian average, but the rate of violent crimes remains slightly above the national average.

- **Serious youth crime** - The latest information for 1995-96 is not yet available but the 1994-95 rates were significantly above the Canadian average.

- **Oil and gas reserves** - The production of conventional oil and gas has exceeded the rate of replacement, resulting in declining reserves, although we still have vast reserves of oil sands remaining.

- **Downstream water quality** - Water quality downstream from major urban centres and other developments continues to exceed recreational use guidelines for three of the province's six major rivers.

Looking ahead

In addition to accounting to Albertans on the results achieved, one of the purposes of *Measuring Up* is to assist government in making choices, developing business plans, and improving programs and services for Albertans.

The results from this year's *Measuring Up* report will provide important information for updating and revising government and ministry business plans for 1998-2001. Albertans can expect to see many of the areas of improvement highlighted in future business plans with appropriate strategies in place.

In *Budget '97*, government also announced a new watchlist of performance measures. That watchlist is intended to signal priority areas where government will carefully track progress and results. The watchlist for 1997-98 includes the following three objectives:

- Albertans will have **access to appropriate health services** through a well-managed health care system. This objective will be monitored through measures such as waiting times for cardiac surgery, length of stay in emergency, and public perceptions on ease of access to health services.
- Alberta **students are prepared for entry into the workplace or adult learning**. Measures of student preparedness will be used.
- Alberta will **create 155,000 jobs by December 2000**. This will be tracked by net employment growth, youth employment growth, full time versus part time employment, and a number of other measures.

Albertans can expect to see results of the watchlist measures published at intervals during this year.

The 1998 edition of *Measuring Up* will represent a further improvement in performance measurement. The government's goals have been more clearly articulated in the 1997-2000 Government Business Plan, released in this year's budget. There are 17 clear and concise goal statements. The alignment between the government's core performance measures and the government's goals has been improved. In turn, ministry strategies from each of the ministry business plans have been aligned with each of the government's goal statements. This will allow for a better accounting of performance.

Measuring results is an important part of government's commitment to Albertans. By tracking progress, assessing where targets are being met and where we're falling short, and reporting that information to Albertans, we can ensure that ongoing improvements are made to the quality of services Albertans receive.

Report of the Auditor General

on the Results of Applying Specified Auditing Procedures to Core Performance Measures

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly

I have performed the following procedures in connection with the Province of Alberta's set of core measures included in ***Measuring Up — Third Annual Report on the performance of the Government*** of Alberta dated June 1997:

1. Information obtained from an independent source, such as Statistics Canada, was agreed with the information supplied by the stated source. Information provided internally was agreed to the reports from the systems used to develop the information.

2. The calculations which converted source information into reported measures were tested.

3. The appropriateness of the description of each measure's methodology was assessed.

As a result of applying the above procedures, I found no exceptions. However, these procedures do no constitute an audit of the set of core measures and therefore I express no opinion on the set of core measures included in ***Measuring Up — Third Annual Report on the performance of the Government of Alberta***.

Peter Valentine

FCA
Auditor General

Edmonton, Alberta
June 13, 1997

People

helping Albertans to be self reliant, capable and caring

Government Goals

- To protect, maintain, restore and enhance the health of Albertans.
- To encourage and support Albertans to become self-reliant and productive.
- To ensure that Alberta students get the best possible education, so that students learn the knowledge, skills, and positive attitudes they need to be self-reliant, responsible, caring, and contributing members of society.
- To ensure that adults have access to high quality, affordable post-secondary education and training so they can take responsibility for shaping their futures, participate in a changing economy and workforce, create new knowledge and enrich the quality of life in their communities.
- To help families to be responsible and accountable, adults independent, and to keep children safe.

Core Performance Measures

- Life Expectancy at Birth
- Health Status
- Births to Children (mothers under age 18)
- Educational Attainment
- Literacy and Numeracy
- Family Income Distribution

Performance Highlights

People . . . helping Albertans to be self-reliant, capable and caring

The core business of *people* focuses on government's work in the areas of:

- fostering lifelong learning
- providing excellent schools, colleges, universities and technical institutes
- building a healthy society with accessible health care
- providing basic support and protection for those in need, and
- working with others to support families.

There are five government goals for the *people* core business and six *people* performance measures. **Overall, four measures showed improved performance and two remained unchanged.** Following is the 1996-97 performance highlights for these six *people* measures. The meaning of the symbols is:

✔ target achieved
⇧ improved performance
⇩ declining performance
▬ no change in performance from previous year

⇧ **Life Expectancy at Birth** - Alberta has one of the highest life expectancies in the world. In 1994, life expectancy was 81.4 years for females and 75.5 years for males. Longevity in Alberta compares favourably with Japan, which has the highest life expectancy in the world with females living an average of 83.3 years and males 76.6 years.

▬ **Health Status** - Between 1995 and 1996 there was a decrease (or improvement) in the 45-64 and 65-74 age groups who rated their health as poor or fair. There was an increase in three of five age groups of Albertans who rated their health as poor or fair — age groups 18-24, 25-44 and 74 years and older.

⇧ **Births to Children (mothers under age 18)** - The rate of births to children in Alberta declined by 17% since 1991. The gap between Alberta's rate and the Canadian rate narrowed in 1995.

▬ **Educational Attainment** - The percentage of students graduating from high school within 6 years of entering grade 9 remains unchanged from last year at 69 percent, still short of the 75 percent target.

⇧ **Literacy and Numeracy** - The percentage of Alberta students achieving the acceptable standard in grade 9 language arts was up to 88 percent, an increase from 82 percent in 1995 and surpassing the target of 85 percent. In mathematics, 69 percent of students achieved the acceptable standard, an increase from 66 percent in 1995, but still short of the 85 percent target.

⇧ **Family Income Distribution** - The percent of families with incomes less than $20,000 declined in 1995 to 10.3 percent of all Alberta families, compared to the target of 10 percent.

While the core measures for people show overall improved performance, **there are opportunities for improvement in the following areas**:

- **High School Completion** - The percentage of students who complete high school within six years of entering grade 9 is still below target. Completing high school is critical to ensuring that our students are employable. Typically, adults who have not completed high school experience higher unemployment rates.

- **Math Skills** - The mathematics skills of Alberta's students has room for improvement.

- **Heart Disease and Cancer Rates** - Heart disease, cancer and respiratory-related ailments are still the major causes of death in Alberta. Death from cancer has remained virtually unchanged since 1976 for both men and women.

- **Births to Children** - While births to young women has declined since the peak in 1991, this remains an ongoing concern given that Alberta still has a birth rate higher than the Canadian average.

- **Family Income Falling** - The 1995 average real income of non-elderly families, including two parents with children, single mothers, and non-elderly individuals, has fallen since 1981 by 15%, 33%, and 19% respectively.

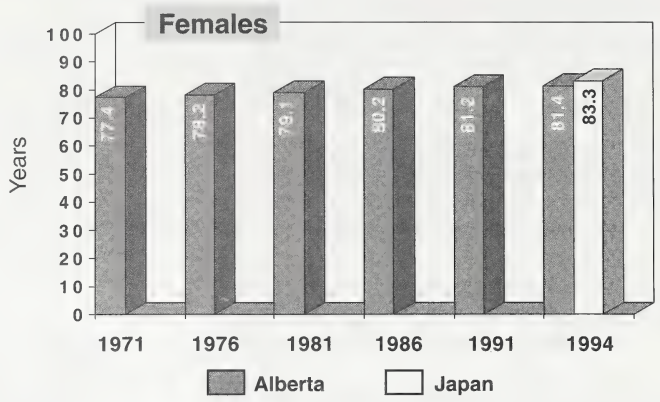
Life Expectancy at Birth

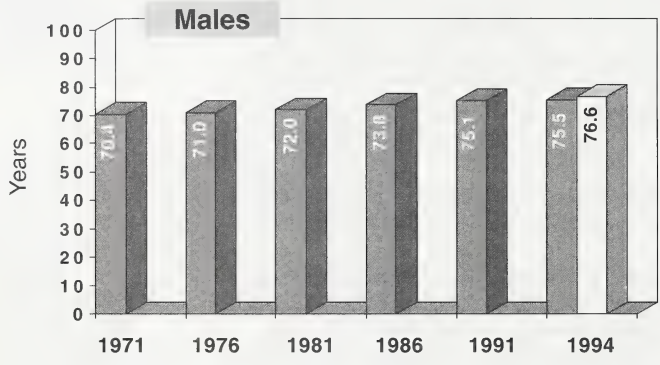
Life expectancy at birth is a universally recognised indicator that a population is healthy, has adequate access to health care, has healthy diets, and is protected from the effects of environmental, workplace or other hazards that would shorten life.

Comparisons between countries have shown that life expectancy is related to national wealth and economic development, the quality of the health care system, and individual socio-economic status.

We want to increase the number of years lived in good health. In Alberta, overall life expectancy is strongly affected by infant mortality and the three major causes of premature death (heart disease, cancer, and respiratory ailments). Reducing mortality rates from these factors will increase overall life expectancy for Albertans.

Life Expectancy at Birth





Source: Statistics Canada Cat. No. 82-001 and 82-003 & World Health Statistical Annual 1995.

Results

The life expectancy of Albertans is among the highest in the world. Life expectancy of Albertans has increased steadily for both males and females, by roughly one year every 5 calendar years since 1971. For Alberta females, life expectancy was 81.4 years compared to 83.3 years for Japanese females. Life expectancy of Alberta males was 75.5 years compared to 76.6 years for Japanese males.

Goal

Our goal is to protect, maintain, restore and enhance the health of Albertans.

Measure

Life expectancy is an estimate of the average number of years that a person born in that year will live, based upon current mortality statistics.

Target

Our target is to approach the life expectancy of the world's leading countries. In 1994, Japan had the longest life expectancy of any nation at 76.6 years for males and 83.3 years for females.

Life Expectancy at Birth

Methodology

Life expectancy estimates are calculated and published by Statistics Canada.

Strategies

Health will ensure that Albertans have access to quality health services when they need them, and will provide more emphasis on education, prevention of illness and injury, and the promotion of healthy, active lifestyles.

The **Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission** will help individuals live free from alcohol and drug abuse.

Community Development will investigate the relationship between active living and decreased health costs.

Family and Social Services will strive to keep children safe through prevention and early intervention, promote community-based services to persons with disabilities, and provide financial assistance to those in need owing to age, long-term disability or illness.

Labour will continue to promote appropriate workplace safety standards and provide adjudication of workplace safety issues.

The **Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research** will support research to discover advances in medical science that can enhance the health of Albertans, and will support research on health service effectiveness and health technology assessment.

New measures are being developed to track improved quality of life as well as longer life. Life expectancy in good health presents a slightly different picture of health by subtracting from total life expectancy, for those born in 1991, the estimated number of years lived in health institutions and the estimated number of years lived in poor health (i.e., chronic disease or long-term disabilities and dissatisfaction with own health). These estimates are derived from administrative sources and public survey data collected by Statistics Canada.

Expected Percentage of Years Lived in Good vs. Poor Health (Alberta, 1991)

Source: Alberta Health

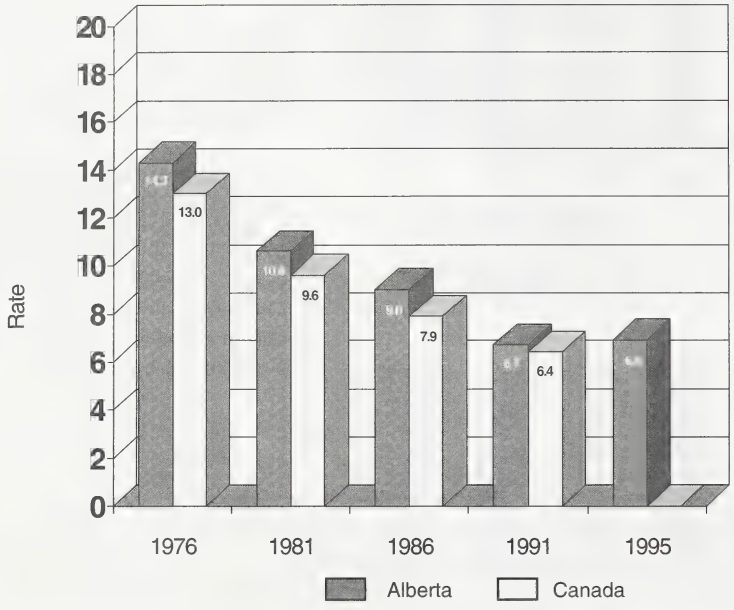
For additional measures, see the following ministries in the Appendix:

Health
Community Development
Family and Social Services
Labour

Life Expectancy at Birth - Supplemental Information

Life expectancy is directly related to the rate of infant mortality and to the three major causes of death in Alberta (heart disease, cancer and respiratory ailments). Compared with the Canadian average, Alberta has a slightly higher infant mortality rate. Infant mortality rates have been declining since 1976, however they did increase slightly in 1995 compared to 1991.

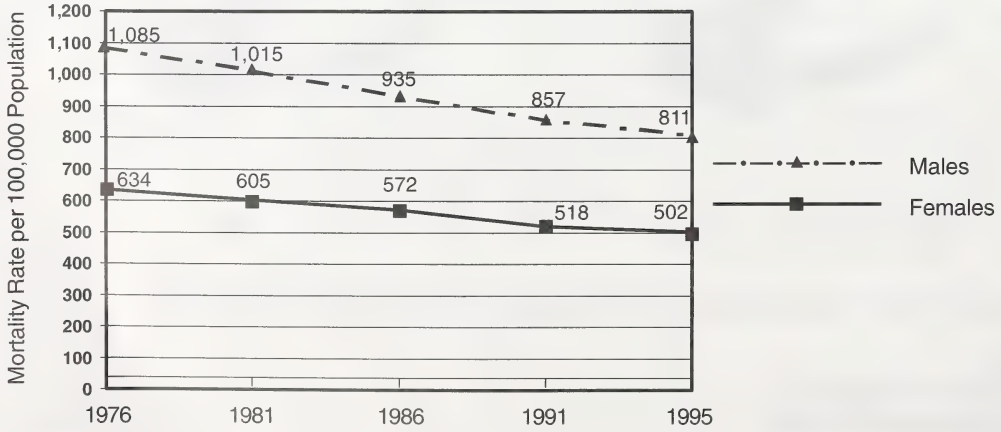
Infant Mortality (Per 1,000 Live Births)



Source: Vital Statistics and Alberta Health

Overall the mortality rates per 100,000 population have declined steadily since 1976 while average life spans have increased. Between 1976 and 1995 the mortality rates for males have declined by 25% for males and declined 20% for females. In comparison, the life expectancy for males increased 6.3 % and 4.0% for females between 1976 and 1994.

Mortality Rate for Alberta Males and Females per 100,000 Population



Source: 1976-1991 Statistics Canada - Health Status Indicators Database, 1994; 1995 Alberta Deaths - Alberta Vital Statistics (Feb. 97).

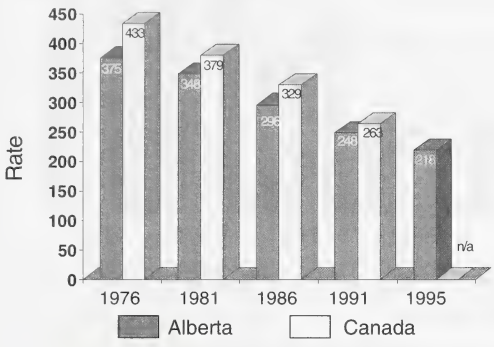
Life Expectancy at Birth - Supplemental Information

The three major causes of death in Alberta in 1995 were heart disease, cancer, and respiratory-related ailments. The graphs show the standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population for each of the major causes of death. While deaths from heart disease have been declining, deaths from cancer remain relatively unchanged from 1976. Reducing mortality rates will ultimately lead to increased life expectancy for Albertans.

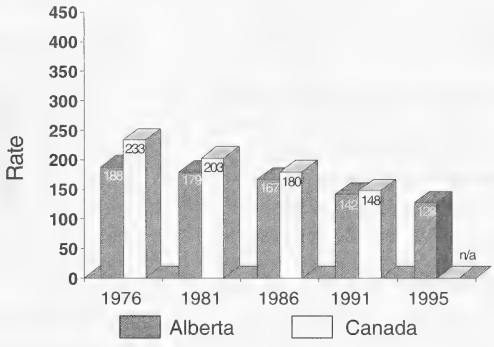
Major Causes of Death in Alberta and Canada - 1976 to 1995

Standardized Mortality Rates per 100,000 Population for Major Causes of Death

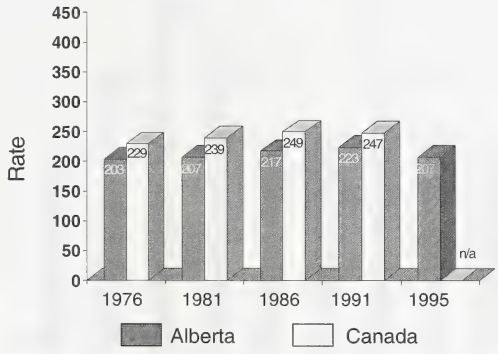
Heart Disease - Males



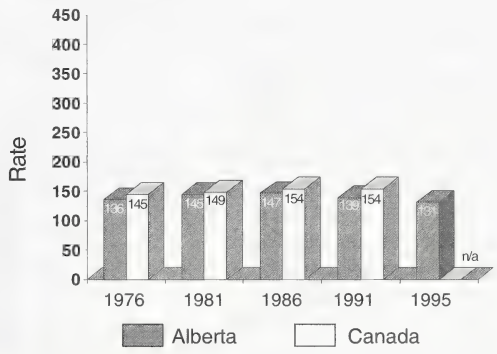
Heart Disease - Females



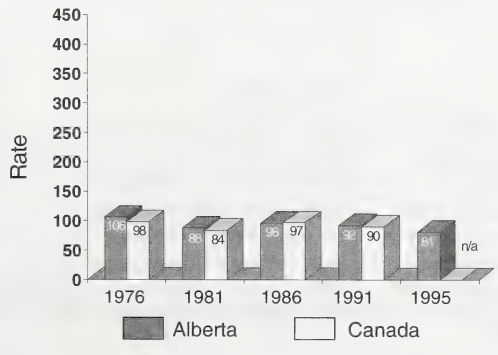
Cancer - Males



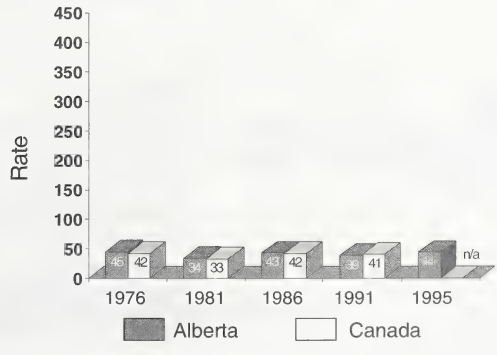
Cancer - Females



Respiratory - Males



Respiratory - Females



Source: 1976-1991 Statistics Canada - Health Status Indicators Database, 1994.
1995 Alberta Deaths, Alberta Vital Statistics (February 1997).
Note: Any attempts to reconcile mortality figures for Measuring Up '97 with previous editions should note a change in methodology. Standardised Mortality Rates (SMRs) reported here are calculated using the 1991 age distribution for Canada. Previous reports of SMRs in *Measuring Up* used the 1971 age distribution for Canada. The population in 1991 was older than in 1971; there were more older people relative to fewer younger people. Since mortality rates increase with age, using the older 1991 population to standardise mortality rates yields a higher standardised rate.

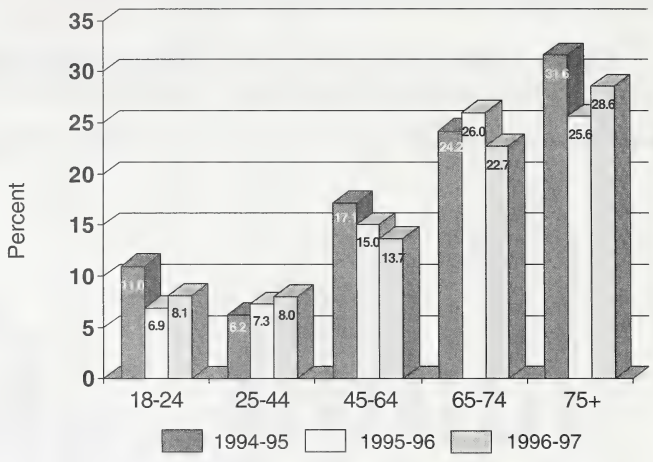
Health Status

Self-reported health status is a good indicator of the health and well being of Albertans. How people rate their own health is affected by a variety of factors including chronic disease, disability, temporary illness and mental health. This measure attempts to ascertain whether Albertans in general (not just those that use the health care system) feel healthy, compared to others their own age. It is becoming accepted within Canada as a means of communicating population health.

Results

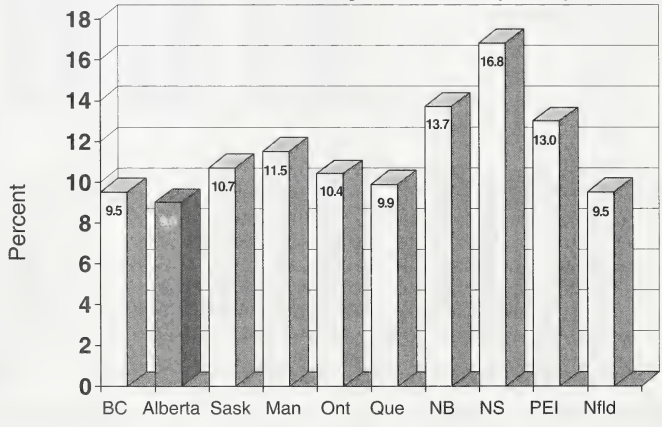
Self-reported health status is strongly affected by age. More older Albertans reported poor to fair health than younger Albertans. Between 1995/96 and 1996/97 there was an increase in three of five age groups of Albertans who rated their health as poor or fair - 18-24, 25-44 and 74 years and older. There was a decrease in the age groups 45-64 and 65-74 who rated their health as poor or fair. Compared to other provinces, Alberta had the lowest percentage reporting fair or poor health compared to others their age in 1994-95.

Percentage of Albertans Rating Their Health as Only Fair or Poor Compared to Others Their Age



Source: Alberta Health Survey, 1995, 1996 and 1997

Fair or Poor Health Status by Province (1994)



Source: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey, 1994/95

Goal

Our goal is to protect, maintain, restore and enhance the health of Albertans.

Measure

Albertans are asked to rate their health compared to others their own age using the following categories: excellent, very good, good, fair or poor. Our measure of health status is the percentage reporting either fair or poor health, in each of five age groups.

Target

Our target is to reduce the percentage of Albertans, particularly in their older age categories, who rate their health status as only fair or poor. We want to have the lowest percentage of Albertans reporting fair or poor health status, compared with other provinces.

Health Status

Methodology

Annual data for Alberta are collected through a public telephone survey of 4,000 Alberta households selected at random. A standard question is used to measure self-reported health status (*i.e., In general, compared with other people your age, would you say your health is ...?*). The survey is commissioned each year by Alberta Health, and an independent private contractor is engaged to conduct the survey and report on the results.

Data for interprovincial comparisons are obtained from the National Population Health Survey, which is conducted by Statistics Canada every two years.

Strategies

Health will ensure that Albertans have access to quality health services when they need them, and will provide more emphasis on education, prevention of illness and injury, and the promotion of healthy, active lifestyles.

Community Development will promote active healthy living, investigate strategies for combating elder abuse and neglect, and ensure low income seniors receive financial assistance to live in a secure and dignified way. The Ministry will coordinate the investigation of methods to ensure people living in residential care options are protected.

Education will continue to include health and physical education programs as part of compulsory education.

Education and **Health** are supporting school health research initiatives to identify ways of meeting students' health and related service needs.

Family and Social Services will strive to keep children safe through prevention and early intervention, provide financial assistance to those in need owing to age, long-term disability or illness, and support women and children leaving abusive situations.

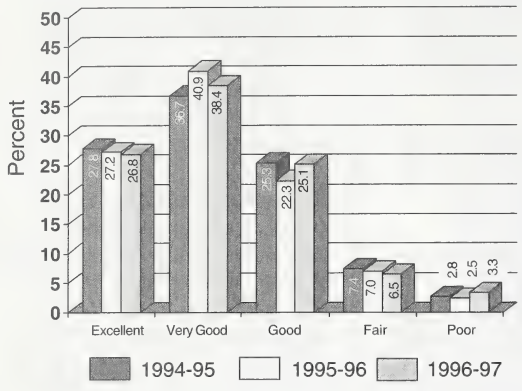
Environmental Protection will protect and maintain Alberta's high quality air, land and water for the health and enjoyment of Albertans by establishing acceptable standards and taking action to maintain the quality of Alberta's air, land and water.

For additional measures, see the following ministries in the Appendix:

Health
Community Development
Education
Environmental Protection
Family and Social Services

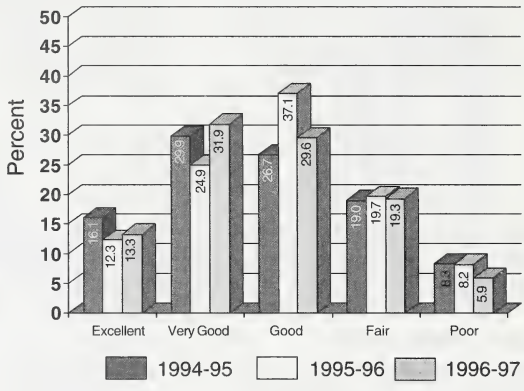
Health Status - Supplemental Information

Albertans' Aged 18 to 64 Rating of Their Health Relative to Others Their Age



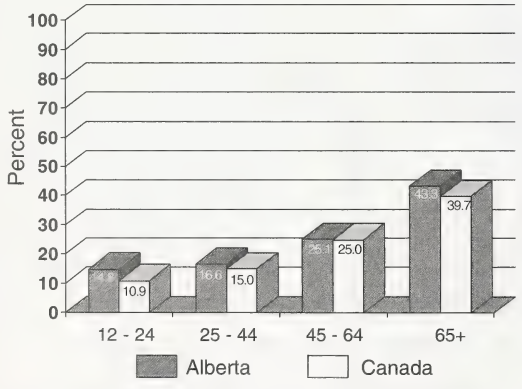
Source: Alberta Health Survey, 1995, 1996 and 1997

Albertans' Aged 65+ Rating of Their Health Relative to Others Their Age



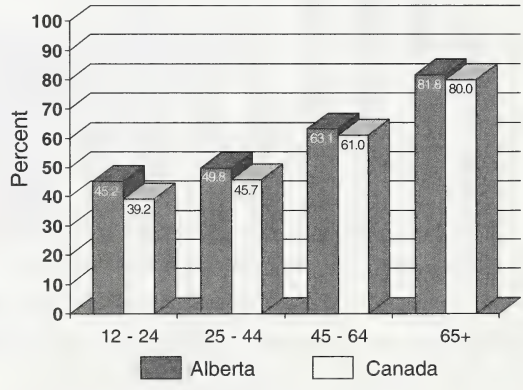
Source: Alberta Health Survey, 1995, 1996 and 1997

Percentage Reporting Restriction of Activity (1994-95)



Source: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey, 1994/95

Percentage Reporting One or More Diagnosed Long-Term Conditions (1994-95)

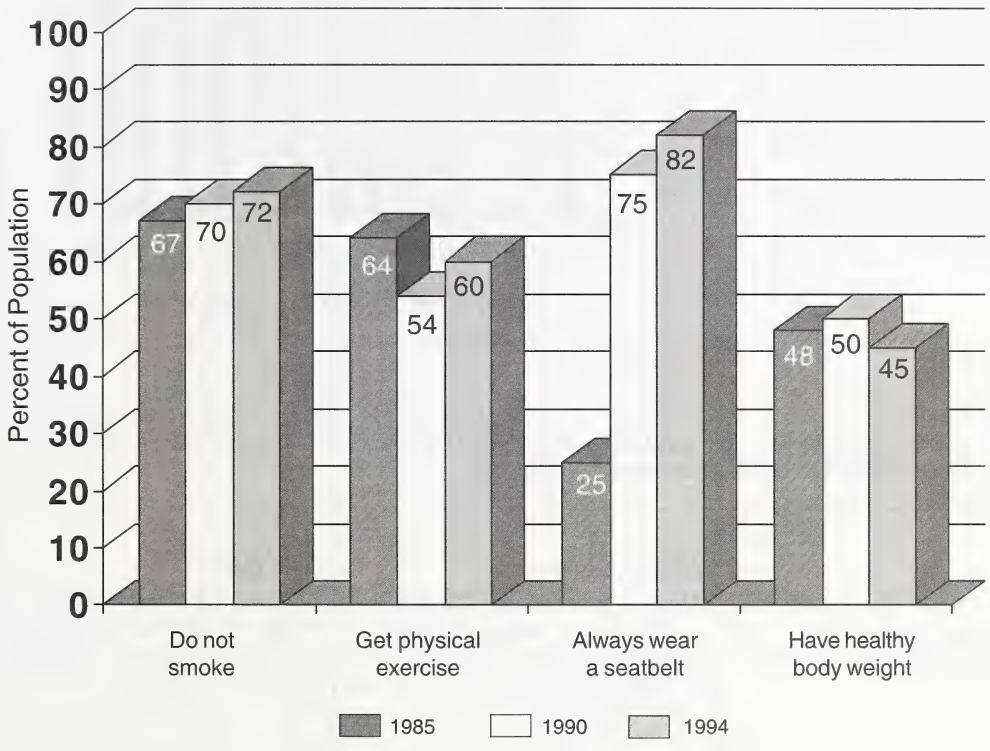


Source: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey, 1994/95

Health Status - Supplemental Information

Healthy lifestyles contribute to longevity and improved quality of life. The following statistics show the percentage of Albertans who report participating in healthy behaviour.

Percentage of Albertans Participating in Healthy Behaviour

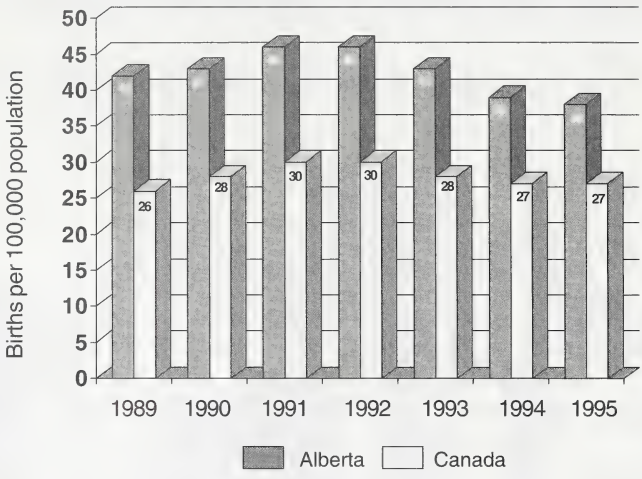


Source: Health Promotion Survey (1985, 1990); National Population Health Survey (1994/95)

Births to Children (mothers under age 18)

Children born to mothers under the age of 18 face the risk of a poor start to life. Young mothers are more likely to form single parent, low-income households. The majority of Alberta's low-income families are single parents. Children born into low-income households are more likely to experience poverty than children in two-parent families. These young mothers are also more likely to have low birthweight babies and are at greater risk of dropping out of school. Many will become dependent on welfare.

Births to Mothers under the Age of 18 (per 100,000 Population)



Source: Vital Statistics and Statistics Canada, Cat. No. 91-213-XPB

Results

The rate of births to children in Alberta in 1995 has declined 17% since 1991. The gap between Alberta's rate and the Canadian average has narrowed slightly in 1995.

Goal

Our goal is to help families to be responsible and accountable, adults independent and to keep children safe.

Measure

Measures the number of births to mothers under the age of 18 per 100,000 population in Alberta over time and compares it to the national average.

Target

Our target is to reduce the rate of births to mothers under the age of 18 to a level below or equal to the Canadian average by the year 2005.

Births to Children (mothers under 18)

Methodology

All births to children statistics are from Vital Statistics data and Statistics Canada data.

Strategies

Several ministries, led by **Family and Social Services**, are designing and implementing a community-based system for services to children and families. The system will focus on prevention and early intervention.

Education will continue to provide the opportunity for students to participate in human sexuality programs.

Health will monitor and assess population health status and will expand public knowledge about factors influencing health.

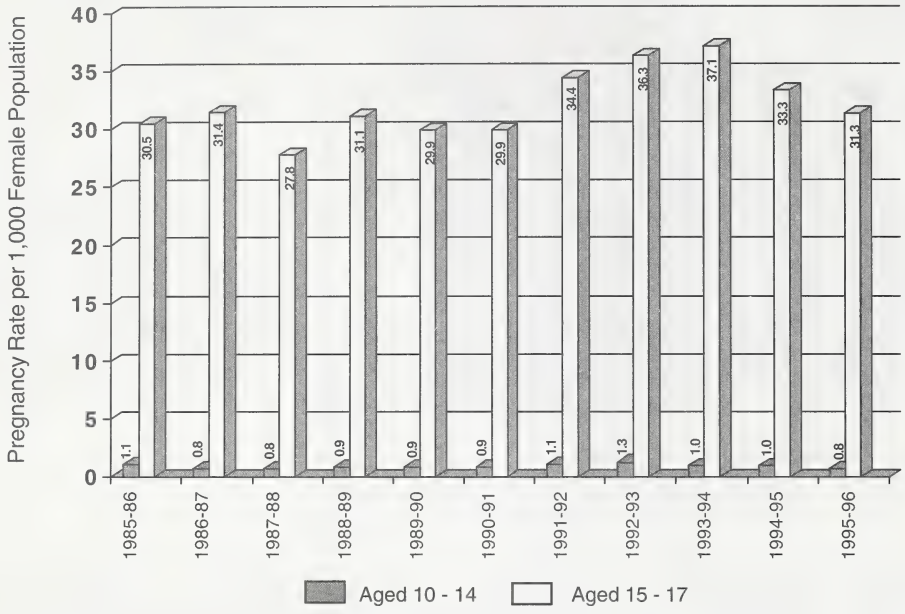
For additional measures, see the following ministries in the Appendix:

Education
Family and Social Services
Health

Births to Children *(mothers under age 18)* - Supplemental Information

Pregnancy Rate per 1,000 Females Aged 10-14 and 15-17

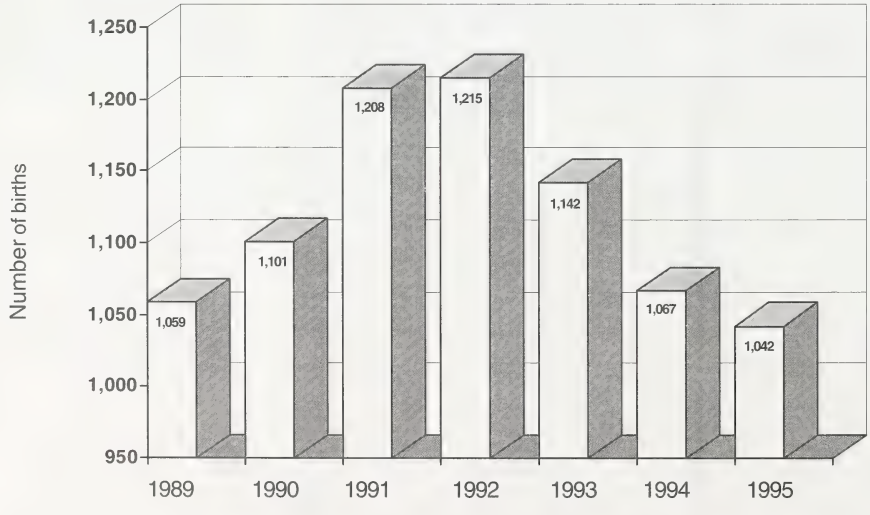
Alberta, 1985-86 to 1995-96



Source: Data for live births and stillbirths is from Vital Statistics; data for therapeutic abortions and population is from Alberta Health files.

Notes: Age-specific pregnancy rates are the number of events (live births, stillbirths, and therapeutic abortions) per 1,000 females in that age group. Spontaneous abortions are not captured.

Total Births to Mothers in Alberta Under Age 18



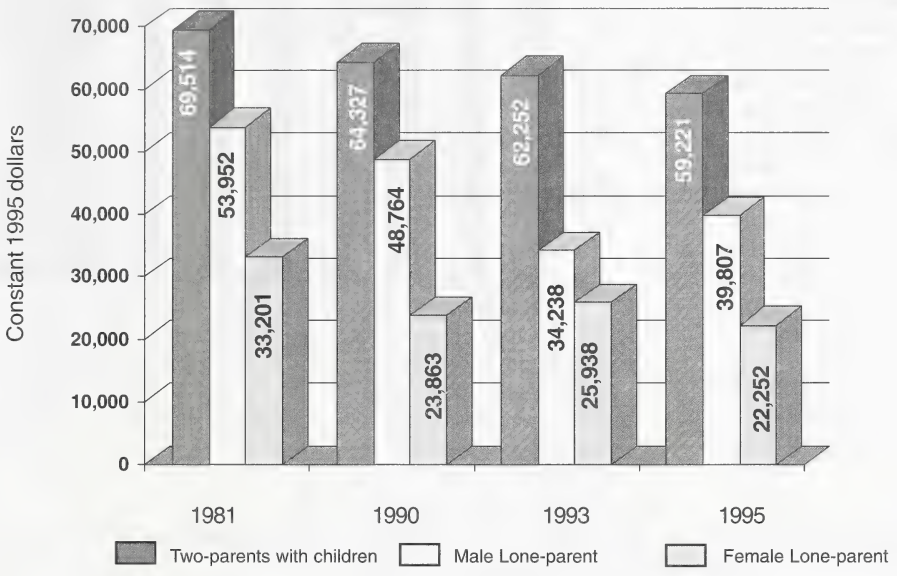
Source: Vital Statistics and Statistics Canada, Cat No. 91-213-XPB

Births to Children (mothers under age 18) - Supplemental Information

The following chart shows the average income of Alberta families with children in constant 1995 dollars. Single female parents earn proportionately less than single male parents and two parent families with children. In 1995, two parent families with children earned 166% more income than single female mothers, while single male fathers earned 79% more than single female mothers. Children living in single female parent families are more likely to experience the economic constraints of lower income than would other children in higher income family types.

Average Income of Alberta Families with Children

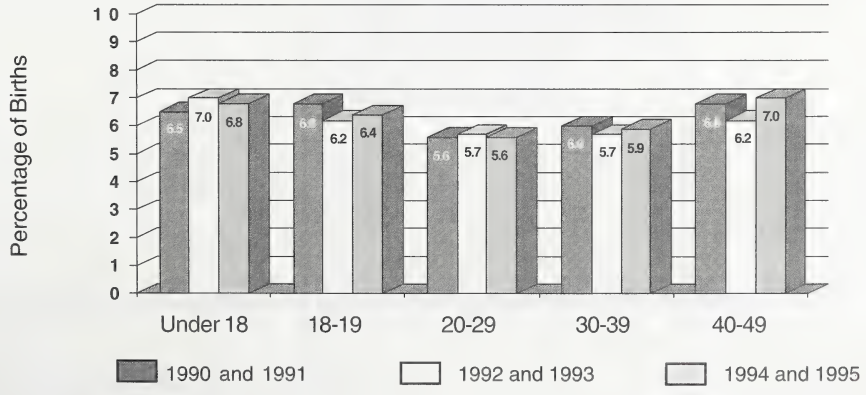
Two Parent, Lone-Male and Lone-Female



Source: 1995 data is from a special run by Statistics Canada, Household Surveys Division provided to Alberta Treasury May 22, 1997. Data for 1981, 1990, and 1993 is from a similar special run completed for the Premier's Council in Support of Families and contained in the report Family Economic Security in Alberta: Implications for Tax and Benefit Policies (the same table also appears in *Agenda '96*, p. 146 of the *Tax Plan* section).

One of the health problems associated with births to mothers under the age of 18 is the higher incidence of low birthweight babies (under 2,500 grams), compared to mothers over the age of 18 (except mothers aged 40-49 who also constitute a high risk group). The graph below compares the rate of low birth weight babies for Alberta mothers, by the age of the mother.

Low Birthweight Babies by Age of Mother

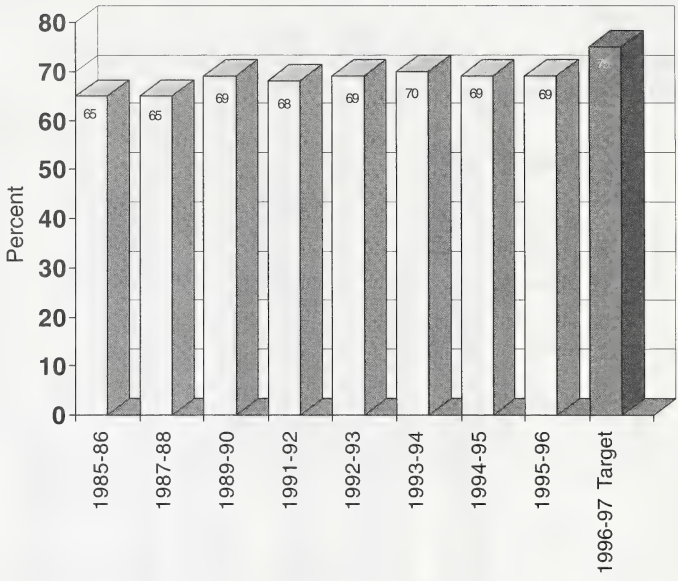


Source: Vital Statistics

Educational Attainment

Part of helping people to be self-reliant, responsible and contributing members of society is to ensure that they receive the appropriate education and training. High school graduates have much lower unemployment rates than high school leavers. As one measure, the government tracks the percentage of Alberta students that complete high school. We have used this measure as a leading indicator for the progress of the elementary and secondary education system.

Percentage of Students Completing Within Six Years of Entering Grade 9



Source: Alberta Education

Results

The percentage of students completing high school within six years of entering grade 9 in 1995-96 was unchanged from the previous year with 69% completing.

Goal

To ensure that Alberta students get the best possible education and have the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to be self-reliant, responsible, caring and contributing members of society.

Measure

Measures the percentage of students who receive a high school diploma or certificate within six years of entering grade 9. It also includes students accepted into a post-secondary institution directly from high school without receiving a diploma.

Target

To increase the percentage of students graduating in six years to 75% by 1996-97.

Educational Attainment

Methodology

Students enrolling in Grade 9 are tracked over time to determine the proportion who complete a diploma, certificate or equivalent standing within six years.

Strategies

Education:

- will review the K-12 curriculum (especially Health, Personal Life Skills, and CALM 20) to identify knowledge and skills related to business awareness, employability skills, and entrepreneurship.
- will implement Career and Technology Studies across the province in September 1997.
- is carrying out the actions in *People and Prosperity, A Human Resource Strategy for Alberta.*

Advanced Education and Career Development:

- will develop a Learning Transitions for Youth initiative, as identified in *People and Prosperity*, which will prepare young adults for a changing world of work with knowledge, development of workplace skills and attitudes, and information about careers that require skill development, though not necessarily degrees or diplomas.
- will facilitate and support system-wide change that integrates technology and learning; encourage the development of effective alternate methods of delivery across the adult learning system to serve learners in ways, times and places suited to their needs and more effectively link teachers, students and curriculum.
- will create new paths for completing degrees to provide Albertans with learning opportunities that build on their completion of diploma and university-transfer programs.
- will promote the development of policies to assess and recognize individuals' prior learning accomplishments.
- will expand opportunities for youth in apprenticeship and industry training.
- will further develop flexible mechanisms to assist Albertans pursuing apprenticeship and industry training.
- will continue to invest in infrastructure renewal and research infrastructure.

Education is working with **Advanced Education and Career Development** to improve the transfer of courses and recognition of prior learning to assist in the adult learning system.

Several ministries, led by **Family and Social Services**, are designing and developing a community-based system for services to children and families.

For additional measures, see the following ministries in the Appendix:

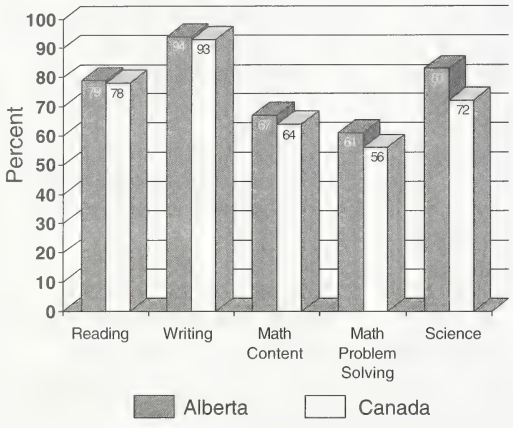
Education
Advanced Education and Career Development
Family and Social Services

Educational Attainment - Supplemental Information

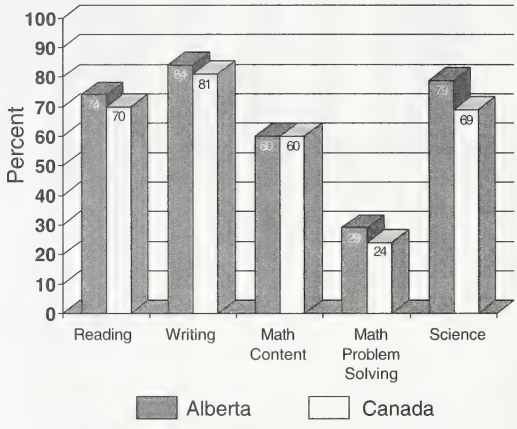
The School Achievement Indicators Program tests a representative sample of 13 and 16 year old students in each province in language arts, mathematics and science every three years. SAIP tests students both slightly younger and slightly older than the grade 9 provincial achievement tests. SAIP tests are designed to measure pan-Canadian learning expectations. The SAIP assessments are developed with extensive involvement of classroom teachers and ministry personnel across the country. The test results review process also allows for input from other educators, as well as representatives of business and other community groups.

Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Standards

Age 13



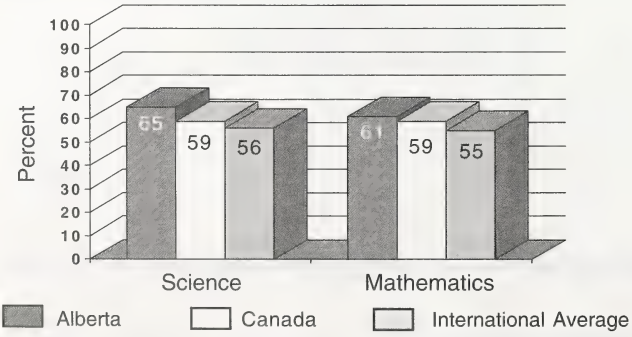
Age 16



Source: Council of Ministers of Education, Canada 1993,1994, 1996. Science Assessment results are from 1996.
Notes: These graphs present results from the School Achievement Indicators Program which measures the performance of students age 13 and 16 in five categories. The graph shows the percent meeting or exceeding standards. There are five levels of achievement; Level 2 is the age 13 standard and Level 3 is the age 16 standard. Canadian results for reading and writing are based on students who wrote the test in English.

The Third International Mathematics and Science Study, conducted between 1994 and 1996, included almost half a million students from 40 countries. Strict guidelines ensured that students who were tested were representative of each country. In Alberta, a total of 2,241 students from 51 schools were tested in the spring of 1995. Results for grade 8 were released in November, 1996 (see below). Results for grades 3, 4 and 12 will be released in 1997. Alberta ranked third in grade 8 science (tied with Japan), and in the top third in mathematics.

The Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) Grade 8 Results



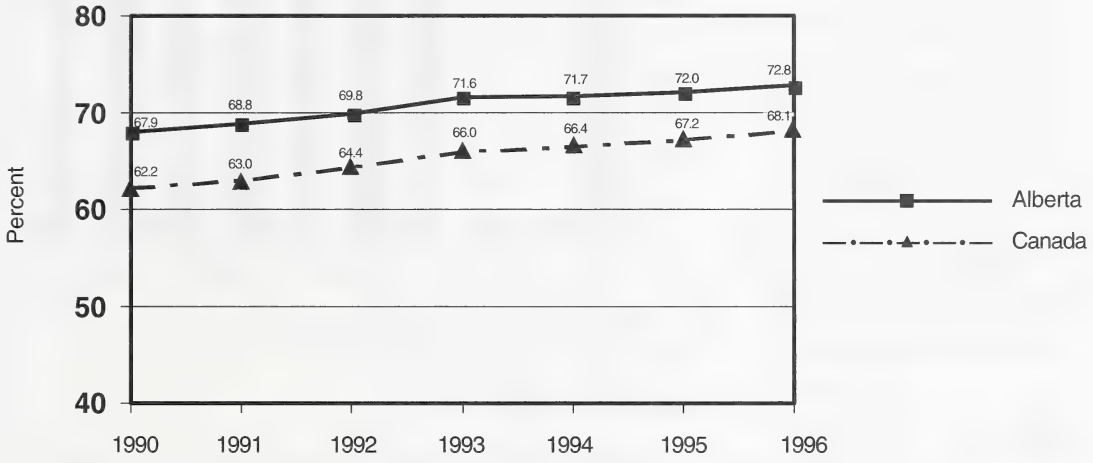
Source: Third International Mathematics and Science Study TIMSS - Canada Report, Vol. 1: Grade 8, 1996.

Educational Attainment - Supplemental Information

An indicator of the educational level of the population is the percentage of the population aged 15 or older with at least high school completion. This includes:

- those with high school completion only;
- those with some post-secondary education, without a certificate or diploma;
- those with a post-secondary certificate or diploma (other than university), and;
- those with a university degree (undergraduate or graduate).

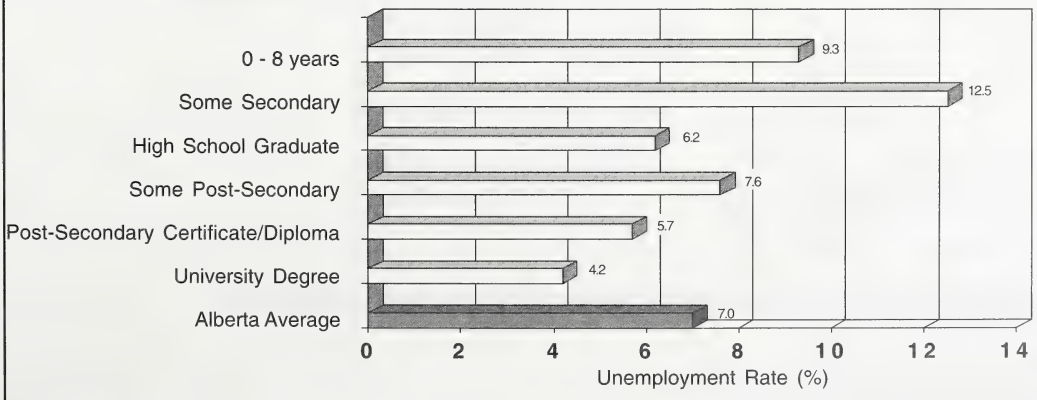
Percentage of Population Age 15 or Older with at Least High School Completion - Alberta and Canada, 1990-1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Annual Averages (Cat. No. 71-220, Annual)

The level of educational attainment plays an important role in the employability of Albertans. University graduates have the lowest rate of unemployment among all educational attainment categories. In 1996, unemployment among university graduates was 4.2%.

Unemployment Rate by Educational Attainment - Alberta, 1996

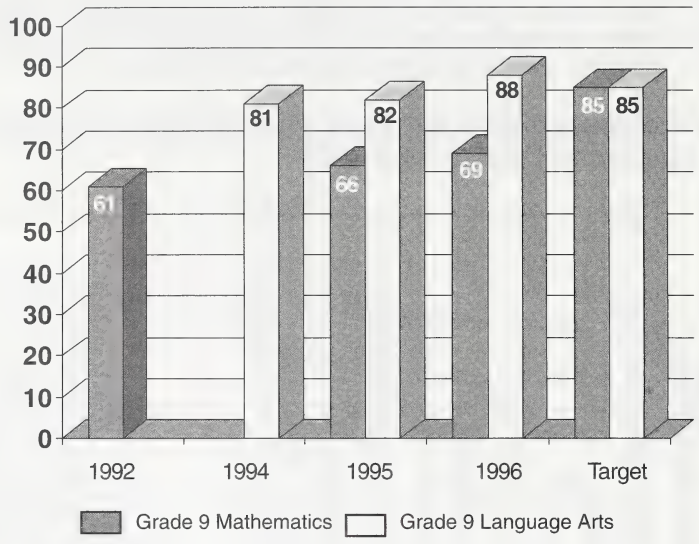


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Cat. No. 71-220 XPB, Table 5

Literacy and Numeracy Levels

Part of helping Albertans take responsibility for their futures is ensuring that they have the knowledge and skills necessary to participate in a changing economy and workforce. An essential component is having the necessary literacy and numeracy skills to function in society. We have chosen to use the percentage of Grade 9 students achieving acceptable standards on provincial achievement tests in mathematics and language arts (the standards are described on the following page). Students who achieve the standard have the necessary competencies to be literate and numerate. Results from the 1994 International Literacy Survey of adults are presented as supplemental information.

Percentage of Grade 9 Students Demonstrating Acceptable Standards



Source: Alberta Education

Results

The percentage of Alberta students achieving the acceptable standard in Grade 9 language arts in 1996 reached 88%, surpassing the target of 85%. In mathematics, 69% of students achieved the acceptable standard, an increase from 61% in 1992 but still short of the target of 85%.

Goal

Our goal is to encourage and support Albertans to become self-reliant and productive.

Measure

Percentage of Grade 9 students achieving the acceptable standard on provincial mathematics and language arts achievement tests.

Target

To have 85% of all Grade 9 students achieve the acceptable standard on provincial achievement tests in mathematics and language arts.

For additional measures, see the following ministries in the Appendix:

Education
Advanced Education and Career Development
Community Development
Family and Social Services

Literacy and Numeracy Levels

Methodology

Students normally take the grade 9 provincial achievement tests at age 14 to 15. Provincial achievement tests are developed with extensive involvement from classroom teachers, and input from other educators, business and community groups, to ensure that the standards reflect public expectations.

Strategies

Education:

- continues to ensure and communicate clear learning outcomes and high standards for education in cooperation with the other western provinces.
- provides classroom assessment material to enhance teachers' understanding of provincial standards.
- has increased the emphasis on problem solving in curriculum, instructional materials, and assessment.

Advanced Education and Career Development, working with **Family and Social Services**, will redesign as appropriate the provincial labour market and income support programs and delivery systems to improve their efficiency and responsiveness to Albertans.

Advanced Education and Career Development will initiate reforms to adult development programming that focus on learner and employer needs, and are career focused, outcome based, and cost effective.

Community Development is developing an electronic Alberta library network funded through the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

Family and Social Services provides financial assistance to welfare clients in educational upgrading programs.

Standards

Grade 9 Language Arts Selected Standards

- use experiences, knowledge of language and context clues to make meaning from text.
- identify, evaluate and synthesize information from a variety of sources to make informed choices, form opinions and answer questions.
- describe, interpret and comment on the actions, attitudes and motives of main characters.
- explain how elements like plot, setting and characterizations are interrelated. Identify the techniques used by authors to achieve a desired purpose.
- communicate information and ideas in a variety of contexts and for a variety of purposes and audiences.

Grade 9 Mathematics Selected Standards

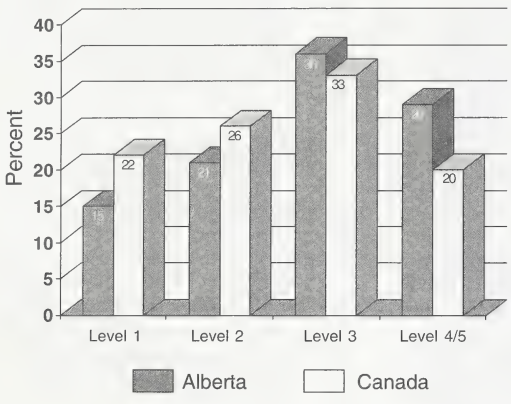
- use the rational number system (numbers that can be written as fractions) to solve problems.
- perform calculations involving rational numbers in both their fractional and decimal forms, using estimators, calculators and computers where appropriate.
- describe, illustrate, interpret and analyze data, using examples from other school subjects and everyday life.
- use measurements and geometry reasoning to solve problems in a variety of contexts.
- use algebra and variables to solve problems.

Literacy and Numeracy Levels - Supplemental Information

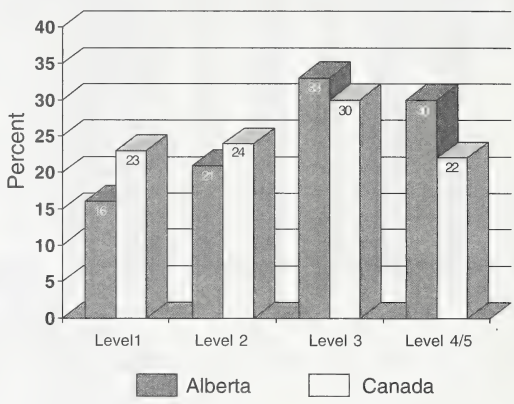
1994 International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS)

The following information shows the percentage of the population of Canada at the five literacy levels measured by IALS in 1994. The Canadian part of the survey consisted of face-to-face interviews with a representative sample of 5,660 individuals aged 16 and over. The test involved a series of tasks designed to assess an individual's ability to use printed material commonly encountered at work, at home, and in the community.

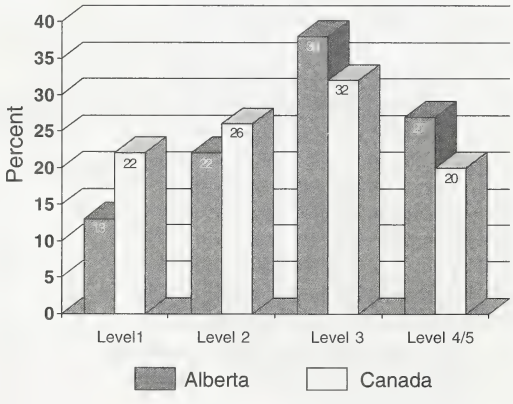
Prose Literacy



Document Literacy



Quantitative Literacy



Source: Statistics Canada. *Reading the future: A portrait of literacy in Canada,* Statistics Canada Catalogue #89-551-XPE, Ottawa: Ministry of Industry, 1996.

What are the three literacy scales?

Prose Literacy - the ability to understand and use information from texts such as editorials, news stories, articles and fiction.

Document Literacy - the ability to locate and use information from documents such as job applications, payroll forms, transportation schedules, maps, tables, and graphs.

Quantitative Literacy - the ability to perform arithmetic functions such as balancing a chequebook, calculating a tip, or completing an order form. This scale is similar to the numeracy scale used in the 1989 Literacy Skills Used in Daily Activities (LSUDA) Survey.

What are the five IALS levels?

The International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS) categorizes adults into 5 levels of literacy:

Level 1 - Have great difficulty with literacy; they have few basic skills available to decode and work with text.

Level 2 - Have limited skills; they can read but they do not read well.

Level 3 - Possess basic skills viewed as being adequate for working in many situations.

Level 4 and 5 - Have a wide range of literacy skills and have many strategies for dealing with complex materials.

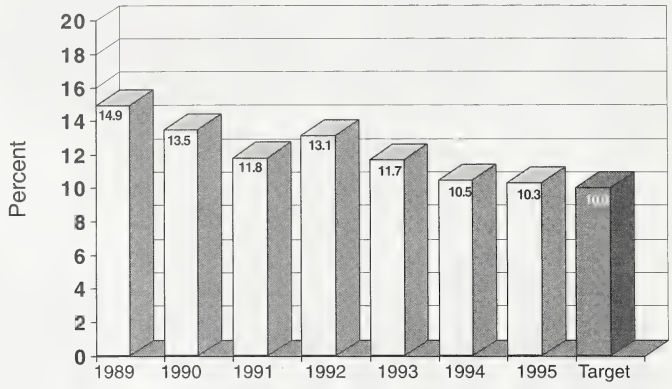
Family Income Distribution

The average income of families and the distribution of income amongst various income groups is an indicator of the relative well-being of Albertans. This measure provides information on the incidence of low income amongst Alberta families and the distribution of families in low, medium, and high income groups.

Results

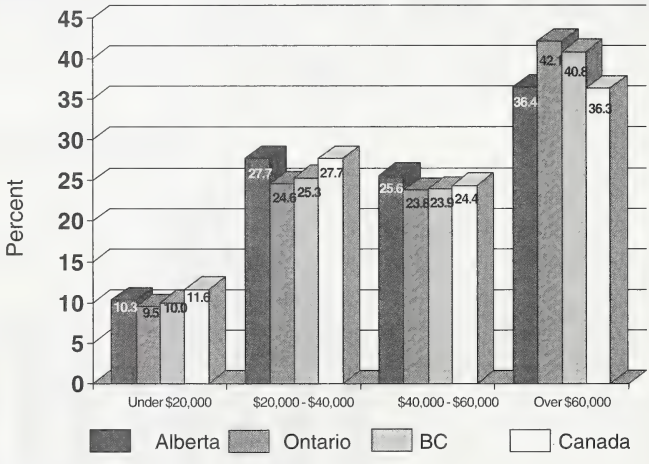
The percentage of Alberta families with income less than $20,000 (in current dollars) declined in 1995 to 10.3 % of all families — only slightly short of the target of 10.0%. The distribution of income among income groups shows that Alberta has proportionately more families earning $20,000 to $60,000 (53.3 % of all families) and proportionately fewer earning over $60,000 (36.4%) compared with Ontario or British Columbia.

Percentage of Alberta Families with Income Under $20,000
(in current dollars)



Source: Statistics Canada Cat. No. 13-207, Table 2

Family Income Distribution by Province (1995)



Source: Statistics Canada, Cat. No. 13-207

Goal

Our goal is to encourage and support Albertans to become self-reliant and productive, and to help families to be responsible and accountable, adults independent, and to keep children safe.

Measure

Compares the percentage of Alberta households with income under $20,000 (in current dollars) and shows the income distribution of families for selected provinces and the national average.

Target

To reduce the percentage of households with average family income under $20,000 to 10 percent by the year 2000.

Family Income Distribution

Methodology

Statistics Canada, Household Surveys Division obtains information on household income levels through an income distribution questionnaire mailed to sample households. Statistics Canada, defines a "family" as "a group of individuals sharing a common dwelling unit and related by blood, marriage (including common law relationships) or adoption." The average size of a family unit for Alberta in 1995 was 3.09 persons. Family income consists of incomes received by all individuals 15 years of age and over who at the time of the survey formed one economic family. The measure of the percentage of families with income under $20,000 is shown in current dollars, as opposed to constant or inflation adjusted dollars. Income groups are clustered as follows: under $20,000; $20,000 to $40,000; $40,000 to $60,000; and over $60,000. Family types are categorised by Statistics Canada, Household Surveys Division.

Strategies

Treasury will maintain Alberta's personal income tax system to promote self-reliance, wealth creation and fair taxation of Albertans. **Treasury** will also enhance the competitiveness of Alberta's corporate tax system with those of other jurisdictions in Canada and with Alberta's other trading partners.

Advanced Education and Career Development working with **Family and Social Services**, will redesign as appropriate the provincial labour market and income support programs and delivery systems to improve the efficiency and responsiveness to Albertans.

Advanced Education and Career Development will implement the Canada-Alberta Labour Market Agreement with the objective that provincial management of labour market programs and services will be sensitive to client needs and will eliminate duplication and overlap.

Agriculture, Food and Rural Development will continue to encourage more diverse, commercially sustainable primary production in Alberta and will facilitate increased self-reliance of rural people and communities.

Community Development will continue to provide financial support to eligible seniors and lump-sum benefits to those seniors who have serious financial difficulty.

Economic Development and Tourism will work to strengthen growth and expansion opportunities in Alberta's key industries and to attract investment and new business to Alberta.

Family and Social Services is transforming welfare from a passive assistance program to an active employment program.

Municipal Affairs will ensure that social housing is occupied by Albertans in greatest need by negotiating changes to cost-sharing agreements with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to provide increased flexibility to address community needs. The ministry will also investigate and implement initiatives to develop tenant self-reliance and encourage transitional use of subsidised accommodation.

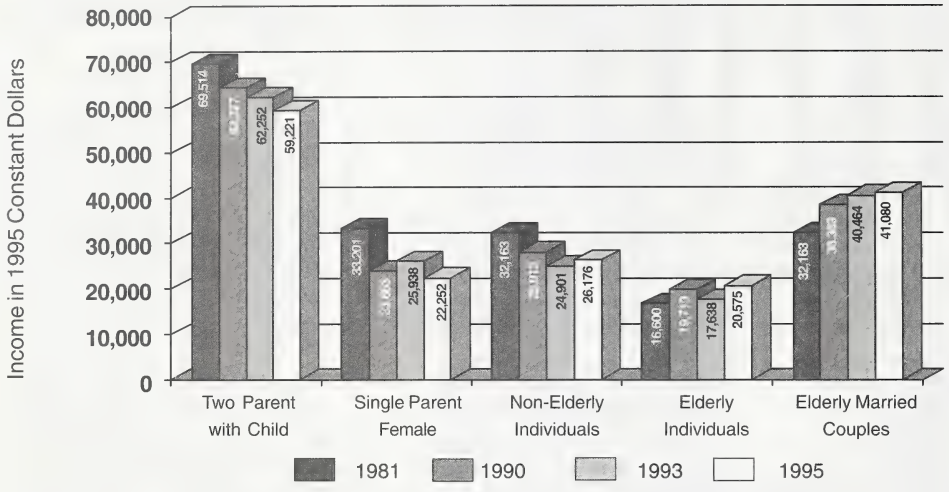
For additional measures, see the following ministries in the Appendix:

Treasury
Advanced Education and Career Development
Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
Community Development
Economic Development and Tourism
Family and Social Services
Municipal Affairs

Family Income Distribution - Supplemental Information

The following chart shows the average annual income for selected family types between 1981 and 1995 in constant (1995) dollars. Since 1981, the average family income has declined by 15% for two-parent families with children, by 7% for married couples without children, by 19% for non-elderly individuals, and by 33% for female single parents. The average income has risen by 24% for elderly individuals and by 28% for elderly married couples since 1981.

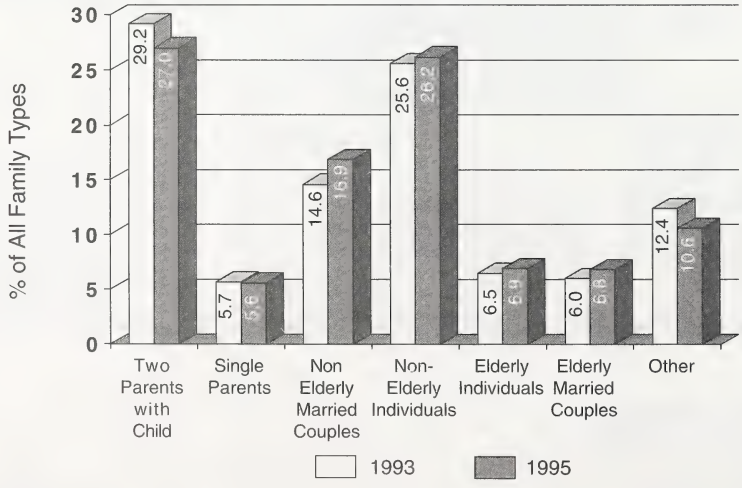
Annual Average Alberta Family Income by Family Type



Source: 1995 data is from a special run by Statistics Canada, Household Surveys Division provided to Alberta Treasury May 22, 1997. Data for 1981, 1990, and 1993 is from a similar special run completed for the Premier's Council in Support of Families and contained in the report Family Economic Security in Alberta: Implications for Tax and Benefit Policies (the same table also appears in *Agenda '96*, p. 146 of the *Tax Plan* section).

This chart shows the percentage distribution by family type in Alberta. The data shows that between 1993 and 1995 the percentage of "two-parent, with children" families and single-parent families has declined while both elderly and non-elderly couples and individuals has increased.

Percentage of Alberta Family Types in 1993 and 1995



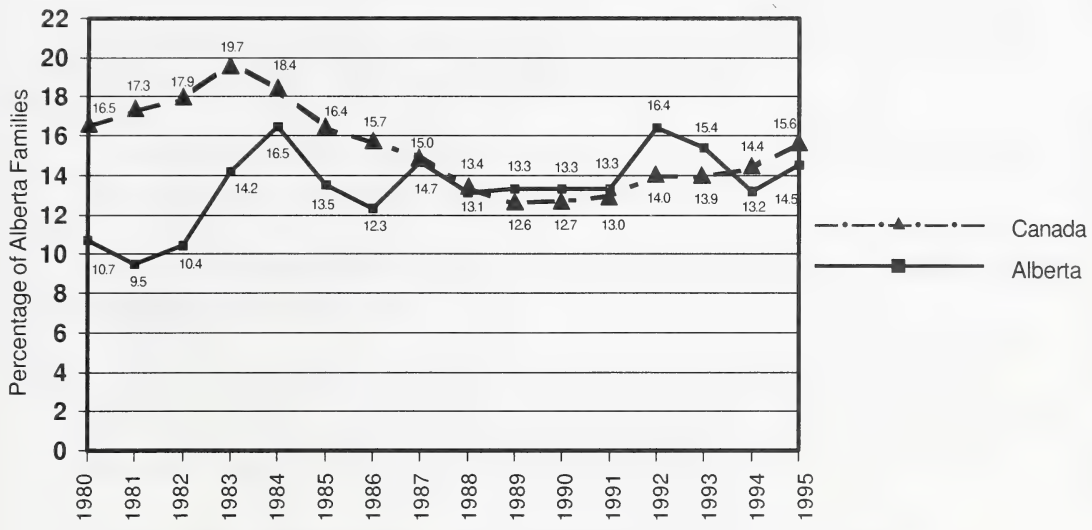
Source: Same as above chart.

Note: "Other" family type includes elderly families with children, married couples living with other relatives, and all other families not otherwise with a classification.

Family Income Distribution - Supplemental Information

The following chart shows the incidence of low income among all Alberta families. This is expressed as the percentage of Alberta families living at or below Statistics Canada's Low-Income Cut Off or LICO. LICO is defined by Statistics Canada as "any family which spends at least 20 percentage points or more than the average family spends on three necessities: food, shelter and clothing." In 1992 the average Canadian family spent roughly 34.7% of their income on these three necessities of food, shelter and clothing compared to 42.0% of income in 1969 (based on Family Expenditure in Canada (FAMEX) of Statistics Canada). The graph below shows that 14.5% of Alberta families were living at or below LICO in 1995, compared with the national average of 15.6%.

Incidence of Low Income Among Alberta Families, 1980 to 1995



Source: Statistics Canada. Income and Distribution by Size in Canada.1995. Cat. No. 13-207-XPB. Table 66.p.176-177.
Source: Alberta Economic Accounts 1995 (Alberta Treasury) and Statistics Canada

Prosperity

promoting prosperity for Albertans

Government Goals

- To build on the Alberta Advantage to create a climate conducive to investment, wealth generation, trade, and job creation.
- To ensure that Alberta has a well-educated, productive, and talented workforce, and a safe and attractive workplace.
- To develop the full potential of ideas and innovation to put Alberta at the forefront of research and development.
- To ensure safe, efficient, and affordable transportation systems, and essential utility services.
- To work with industry and business to maximize the value of Alberta's energy and mineral resource industries, the agriculture and food processing industry, and forestry and tourism.
- To work with the private sector and other partners to open up opportunities for trade in new international markets.
- To maintain a balanced, stable financial situation in the province, and provide open, efficient and accountable government.

Core Performance Measures

- Gross Domestic Product
- Job Creation
- Resource Wealth
- Skill Development
- Adoption of New Technologies
- Cost of Government
- Transportation to Export Markets
- Taxation Load
- Provincial Credit Rating
- Net Debt
- Workplace Climate

Performance Highlights

Prosperity . . . promoting prosperity for Albertans

A key role for government is to work with business, industry and Albertans to build a strong and prosperous province. Government does this by:

- creating a dynamic environment for growth in business, industry and jobs
- ensuring that Alberta has a highly skilled and productive workforce
- providing effective government that lives within its means
- building and maintaining an efficient system of roads, highways, utilities and public spaces, and
- promoting new ideas, innovation and research.

The following is the performance highlights for the eleven prosperity measures. The meaning of the symbols is:

✔ target achieved
⇧ improved performance
⇩ declining performance
▬ no change in performance from previous year

✔ **Gross Domestic Product** - The three-year average GDP growth rate was 5.0% in 1996-97 which is within the target range.

✔ **Job Creation** - There were 157,300 net new jobs created between December 1992 and December 1996 which exceeded the target by more than 47,000 jobs. The biggest growth areas were manufacturing (32,900), business services (27,500) and transportation and storage (22,200).

✔ **Resource Wealth** - The three-year average GDP growth rate for Alberta's key resource industries was 7.9% in 1995 which is above the target range of 2% to 4%.

⇧ **Skill Development** - Alberta labour force productivity increased by 3% in 1996.

▬ **Adoption of New Technologies** - Alberta business funding of research and development was 6.9% which was up 0.2% from 1991, but still well below our target.

✔ **Cost of Government** - Alberta per capita spending by government dropped to 93% of the average per capita expenditure of the other nine provinces. Alberta government expenditure per capita also continued to decline.

▬ **Transportation to Export Markets** - Overall, a mixed set of results. Truck shipments to other parts of Canada have increased, so have rail shipments to other parts of Canada and the United States and air cargo shipments to other international destinations. However, rail shipments to other international destinations and air cargo shipments to other parts of Canada and the United States have decreased.

✔ **Taxation Load** - Albertans still enjoyed the lowest personal income tax rate in Canada. Alberta's total tax burden on families is still the lowest in Canada, about 35% below the Canadian average.

⇧ **Provincial Credit Rating** - Alberta's blended credit rating increased slightly to just above AA in 1996 owing to an upgrade by the Canadian Bond Rating Service. Nonetheless, our blended credit rating was still second to British Columbia.

⇧ **Net Debt** - The province's net debt (excluding pension liabilities) was reduced by $2.528 billion from the previous year to $3.696 billion.

⇧ **Workplace Climate** - Days lost to disputes dropped by over 50% in 1996 in Alberta compared to an increase of over 100% for Canada.

While the performance results for the core measures in the prosperity section are generally satisfactory, there are **some areas in which we would like to see some improvement**, including:

- **Personal Tax Rates** - Alberta still has the lowest personal income tax rate in Canada; however, if Ontario keeps its commitment to lower the personal tax rate to 45% as of January 1, 1998, its rate would be the lowest in Canada.

- **Provincial Credit Rating** - Even though there was some improvement in this measure, our target is to have the highest credit rating among the provinces. By continuing to manage the province's resources in a responsible manner, we hope to show continued improvement in this area.

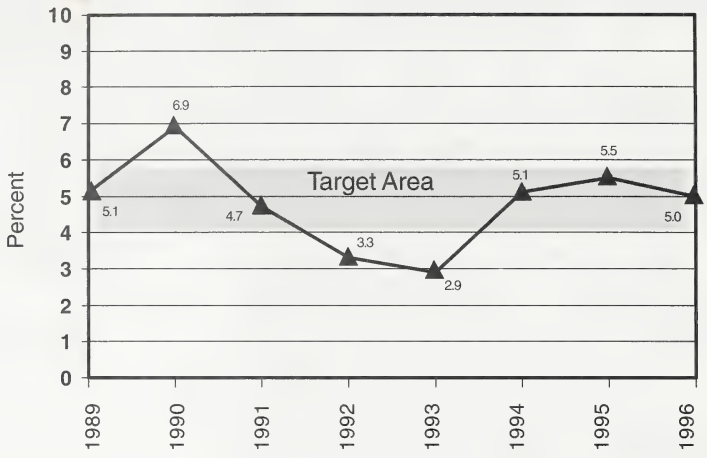
- **Private Sector Funding of Research and Development** - Alberta private sector funding of research and development as a percentage of GDP is well below the target.

- **Net Debt** - Net debt has decreased dramatically over the past three years, but Alberta still has total liabilities of over $28 billion.

Gross Domestic Product

GDP is a direct measure of the strength of Alberta's economy. It measures the total value of all the goods and services produced in Alberta. Tracking this measure over time will show changes in the strength of Alberta's economy.

Three-Year Average Gross Domestic Product Growth
(current dollars)



Source: Statistics Canada, Cat. No. 13-213

Results

In 1996, Alberta's average GDP (current dollars) growth over the past three years was 5.0% which is within the target range.

Goal

Our goal is to build on the Alberta Advantage, working in partnership with the private sector and other partners to create a climate conducive to investment, wealth generation and job creation.

Measure

We have chosen to use the three-year average to smooth out some of the cyclical variations in GDP and to conform to the government's three-year planning cycle.

Target

The target is to achieve a long-term growth rate of between 4% and 6%.

Gross Domestic Product

Methodology

The three-year average growth rate is calculated using Statistics Canada data. The growth rate for each year is calculated and the rates are averaged over a three-year period.

Strategies

Economic Development and Tourism will:

- develop and implement an investment promotion strategy
- offer trade consultation to assist Alberta companies to develop export markets
- implement its regulatory reform plan, coordinating efforts to reduce the regulatory burden on business.
- work with the **Alberta Economic Development Authority** on Alberta's new economic development strategy.

Agriculture, Food and Rural Development will:

- encourage industry to take advantage of available opportunities in the global marketplace.
- increase the availability of strategic market information for use by industry in assessing opportunities.

Energy will attract resource development through streamlined regulatory policies, competitiveness in resource markets, and advancement of development of the oil sands resources.

Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs will improve market access for Alberta business by further reducing barriers to trade.

Science, Research and Information Technology will promote the transfer, application, and commercialization of science and technology-based products, processes and services for the creation of jobs and wealth.

Treasury will evaluate the province's corporate tax system to ensure it remains competitive with other Canadian jurisdictions and with Alberta's other trading partners.

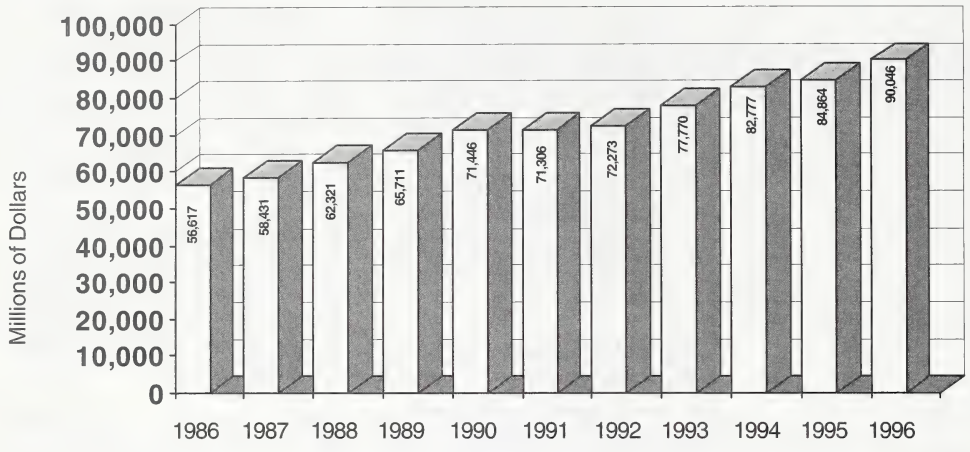
For additional measures, see the following ministries in the Appendix:

Economic Development and Tourism
Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
Energy
Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs
Science, Research and Information Technology
Treasury

Gross Domestic Product - Supplemental Information

The following supplemental data shows Alberta's total Gross Domestic Product in current dollars. This data was used as the base for calculating the three-year average increase in GDP.

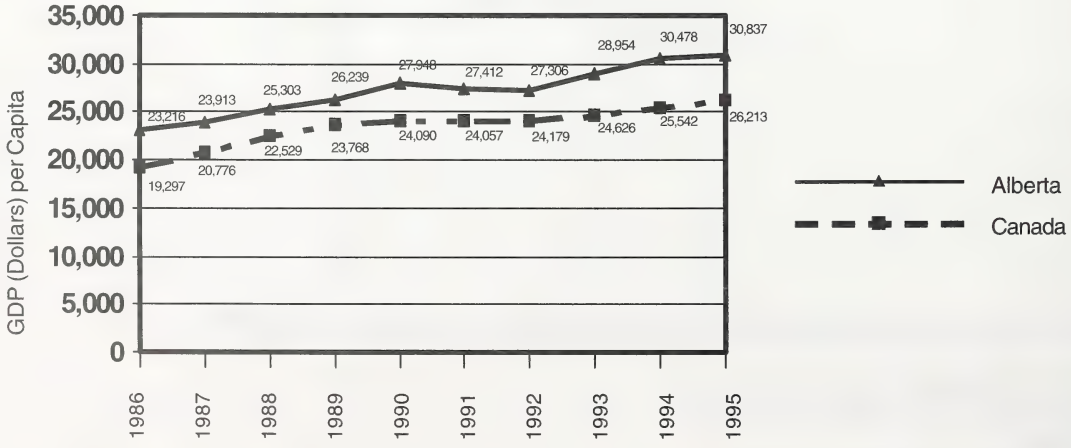
Alberta's Gross Domestic Product in Current Dollars



Source: Statistics Canada, Cat. No. 13-213

The following data shows Alberta's GDP in current dollars on a per capita basis. Per capita GDP was used as the core measure last year and it appears in the supplemental section to ensure a continuity of data.

Per Capita Gross Domestic Product



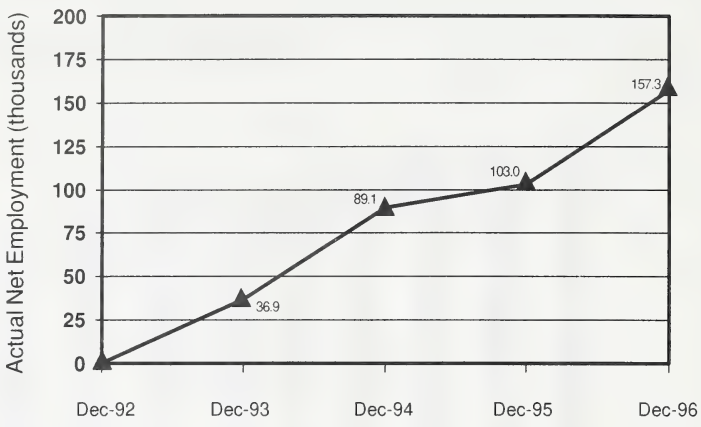
Source: Statistics Canada Cat 13-213

Job Creation

The availability of employment opportunities is a top priority for Albertans. This measure shows the net number of jobs created in Alberta's economy and is one indicator of the strength of the economy. Job creation increases domestic demand, fueling the economy and reducing the need for government transfers.

Net Employment Growth in Alberta

December 1992 to December 1996



Note: seasonally unadjusted employment figures.
Source: Statistics Canada - Labour Force Survey

Results

There were 157,300 net new jobs created between December 1992 and December 1996 which exceeded the target by more than 47,000 jobs .

Goal

Our goal is to build on the Alberta Advantage, working in partnership with the private sector and other partners, to create a climate conducive to investment, wealth generation, and job creation. That means, more jobs, particularly higher skilled, higher wage jobs.

Measure

The Job Creation measure monitors the annual average net employment growth (new jobs less jobs lost) in Alberta, between December 1992 and December 1996, for those aged 15 years and older.

Target

Our old target was to create 110,000 jobs between December 1992 and December 1996. Our new four year target is to create 155,000 new jobs over the next four years.

Job Creation

Methodology

Statistics Canada obtains information on employment growth as part of its monthly Labour Force Survey. Using December 1992 as a base, net employment growth is calculated from that point.

Strategies

Economic Development and Tourism, in conjunction with **Development Authority**, is implementing *A New Economic Development Strategy* that focuses Alberta's economic policy priorities of strengthening the Alberta Advantage and encouraging employment and economic growth. This is part of the Ministry's current emphasis on seeking to establish a policy, regulatory, and strategic framework within government that enhances the competitiveness of Alberta's businesses and supports their lead role in helping to expand Alberta's economy.

Economic Development and Tourism is targeting specific industry sectors and businesses, emphasizing greater business use of new technologies and communicating the advantages of doing business in Alberta. They are also encouraging business to expand exports by providing assistance in market development, promotion and sales delivery of key Alberta products and services, not only in Alberta's traditional U.S. export market but also by expansion and diversification in the growing markets of Asia Pacific, Latin America, the Middle East and Eastern Europe.

Agriculture, Food and Rural Development will:

- work in partnership with others to develop opportunities, reduce constraints and encourage value-added production
- continue to encourage more diverse, commercially sustainable production in Alberta.

Treasury will enhance the competitiveness of Alberta's corporate tax systems (including income, capital, insurance, commodity and property taxes) with those of other jurisdictions in Canada and with Alberta's other trading partners.

For additional measures, see the following ministries in the Appendix:

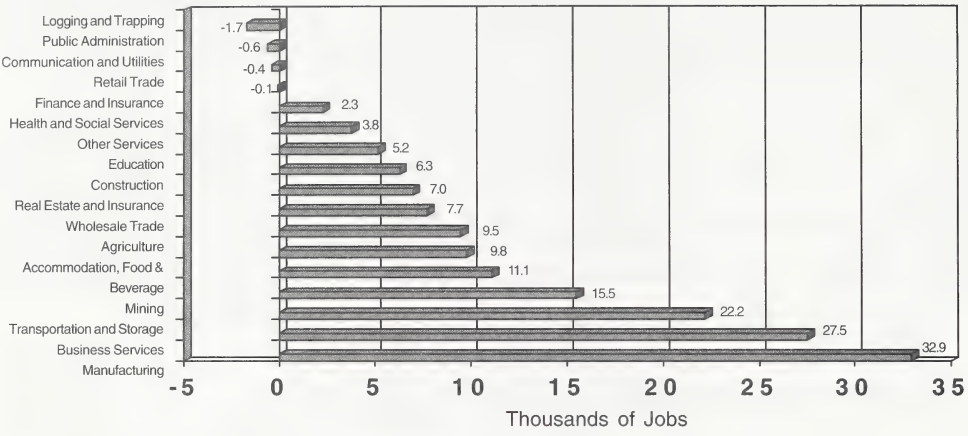
Economic Development and Tourism
Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
Treasury

Job Creation - Supplemental Information

The first chart shows the number of jobs created by industrial sector between December 1992 and December 1996. The manufacturing, business services, transportation and storage, and mining industries showed the largest growth rates. Employment declined in the logging and trapping, public administration, communications and utilities and retail trade sectors of the economy.

Alberta Employment Growth by Industry

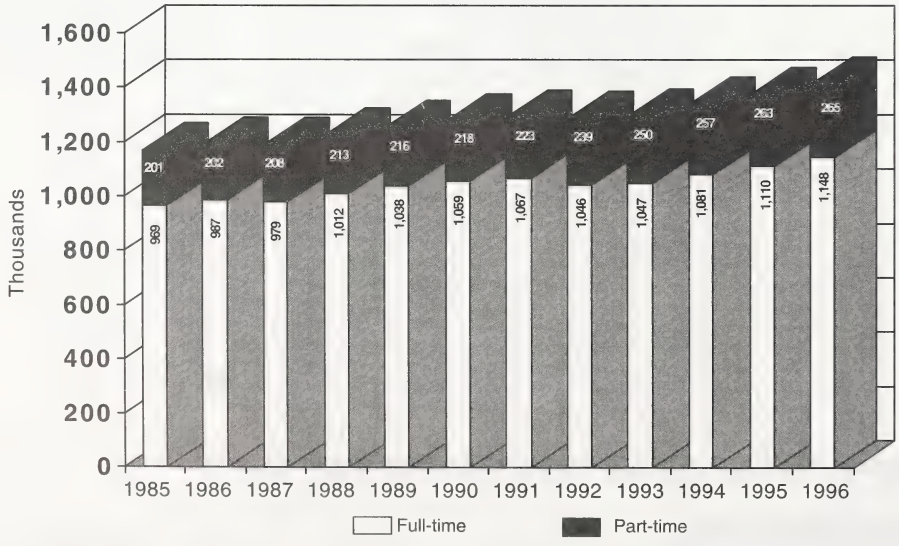
December 1992 to December 1996



Note: Numbers may not add to total employment growth owing to rounding of industry numbers.
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

The following chart shows full-time and part-time employment growth between 1985 and 1996, on an annual basis. In 1996, full-time employment represented roughly 81% of total employment. Part-time employment represented 19% in 1996, up slightly from 1985 (17%).

Full-Time and Part-Time Employment in Alberta



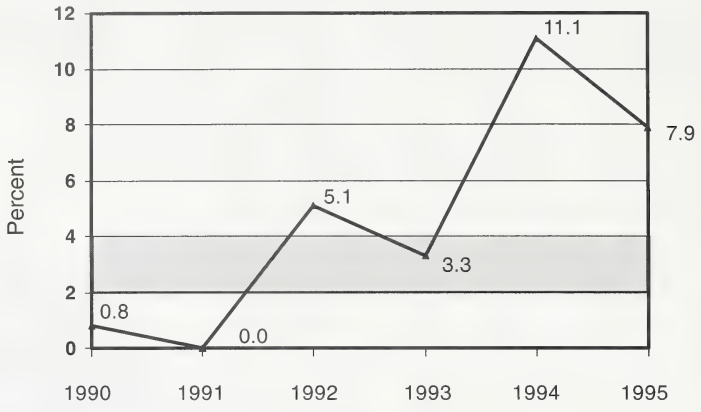
Source: Statistics Canada - Labour Force Survey

Resource Wealth

Alberta's natural resources are the foundation of the provincial economy. Over the past 10 years, our oil and gas, agriculture and forestry industries have accounted for about 17% of provincial GDP on average. This measure provides an indicator of the economic importance of Alberta's renewable and non-renewable natural resources. Healthy resource industries are key to the province's long term economic prosperity.

GDP Three-Year Average Growth of Oil and Natural Gas, Forestry and Agriculture Industries

In Current Dollars



Source: Alberta Economic Accounts (derived from Statistics Canada data)

Results

As of 1995, the three-year average growth rate for the Gross Domestic Product of the oil and gas, forestry and agriculture sectors was 7.9% which represented a significant drop from 1994, but was still above the measure's target range of 2% to 4%. Once again forestry had the highest growth rate at 25.5% followed by agriculture at 14.7% and then the oil and gas sector at 4.1%.

Goal

Our goal is to work with industry and business to maximize the value of Alberta's energy and mineral resources industry, the agriculture and food processing industry, and forestry and tourism.

Measure

This measure tracks the average three-year growth rate of provincial GDP for these industries. A three-year average was chosen to conform with the government's business planning cycle.

Target

The target is to achieve economic growth of 2% to 4% per year (GDP in current dollars) for Alberta's renewable and non-renewable resource industries.

Resource Wealth

Methodology

The Alberta Provincial Economic Accounts provide information on the economic output (Gross Domestic Product) of the oil and natural gas, agriculture, and forestry (includes logging, wood, and paper and allied products) industries. This information is reported by Statistics Canada on an annual basis and is converted to a three-year average.

Strategies

Economic Development and Tourism is currently working in partnership with other government ministries and industries to strengthen Alberta's primary resource industries by encouraging more value-added manufacturing, processing, and service industries.

Agriculture, Food and Rural Development will:

- work in partnership with others to develop opportunities, reduce constraints and encourage new and expanded value-added production in Alberta.
- encourage and conduct research targeted at those areas with the greatest potential for sustainable growth or significant improvement in efficiency.

Energy will ensure the energy and mineral resource fiscal framework (rentals, bonuses, royalties and freehold taxes) remains appropriate through monitoring the market environment and industry performance, and reviewing elements of the fiscal frame work in consultation with industry.

Environmental Protection will:

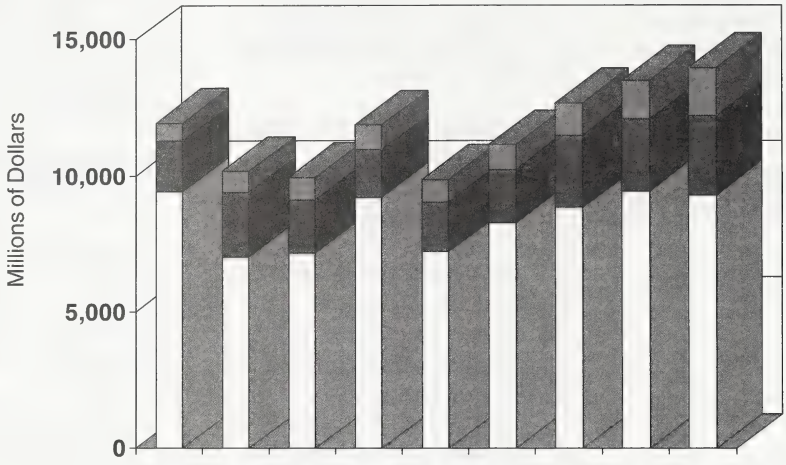
- continue to develop guidelines for the use, conservation and management of public lands and forest resources
- limit forest resource losses by detecting, monitoring and controlling major forest pests and disease
- develop a new forest fire management system that improves our ability to manage resources required for wildfire suppression.

For additional measures, see the following ministries in the Appendix:

Economic Development & Tourism
Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development
Energy
Environmental Protection

Gross Domestic Product of Oil and Natural Gas, Forestry and Agriculture Industries in Alberta

In Current Dollars



	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Oil & Gas	9,413	7,028	7,178	9,219	7,212	8,264	8,805	9,449	9,304
Agriculture	1,848	2,361	1,930	1,723	1,810	1,969	2,670	2,593	2,885
Forestry	667	776	845	920	830	903	1,197	1,467	1,781
Total	11,928	10,165	9,953	11,862	9,852	11,136	12,672	13,509	13,970

Source: Alberta Economic Accounts derived from Statistics Canada data

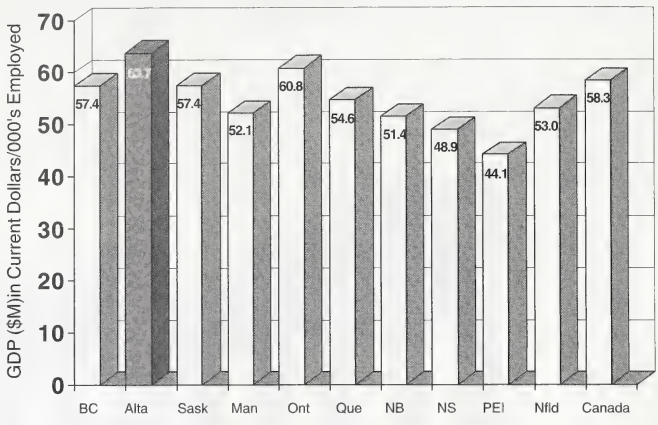
Skill Development

Alberta businesses and industries need to remain competitive in markets around the world. This requires a highly skilled and productive work force and an effective match between skill development and skill demand. Productivity is one indicator of the effectiveness of this match.

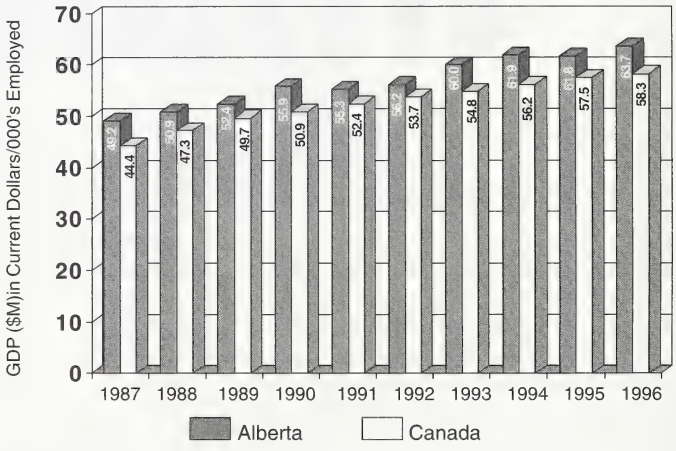
Results

Alberta's GDP (current dollars) increased by about $1,900 per employed person in 1996 (about 3%). As well, our GDP per employed person was the highest in the country.

Provincial Labour Force Productivity 1996



Alberta and Canadian Labour Force Productivity



Source: Statistics Canada: Cat. Nos. 13-213 and 17-201

Goal

To ensure that Alberta has a well-educated, productive and talented workforce.

Measure

The Skill Development measure compares the GDP per employed person by province. GDP per employed person is used as a proxy for the productivity of the labour force. The assumption is that a higher level of productivity reflects a better match between the skill level of employees and the demand for those skills by employers.

Target

Alberta's GDP per employed person should reach $65,400 by 1999.

Skill Development

Methodology

Uses Statistics Canada data on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and total employment. GDP is divided by total employment.

Strategies

Advanced Education and Career Development will:

- initiate reforms to adult development programming that focus on learner and employer needs, and are career focused, outcome based, articulated and cost-effective.
- develop a Learning Transition for Youth initiative, as identified in *People and Prosperity*, which will prepare young adults for a changing world of work.
- work with **Alberta Education** to achieve the common goal of facilitating successful transitions for young people from school to work, school to school and work to school.
- promote the development of policies to assess and recognize individuals' prior learning accomplishments.
- further develop flexible mechanisms to assist Albertans pursuing apprenticeship and industry training.
- create new paths for completing degrees to provide Albertans with learning opportunities that build on their completion of diploma and university transfer programs.
- implement the Canada-Alberta Labour Market Development Agreement with the objective that the provincial management of labour market programs and services will be sensitive to client needs and will eliminate duplication and overlap.
- expand opportunities for youth in apprenticeship and industry training.

Education will:

- work with **Advanced Education and Career Development** to provide information to learners/students, parents and others on career development, the labour market, learning opportunities and the workplace.
- take a leadership role for several of the new actions outlined in *People and Prosperity a human resource strategy for Alberta.*

For additional measures, see the following ministries in the Appendix:

Advanced Education and Career Development
Education

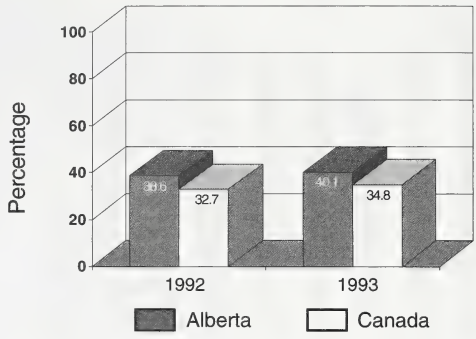
Skill Development - Supplemental Information

Because of the complexity of measuring skill development, other supplemental measures are included to provide context.

Participation Rate in Programs and/or Courses

- This measure shows the percentage of all adults aged 17 and older participating in a program and/or courses.
- Courses are work-related or recreational. Programs are a selection of several courses.

Participation Rate of Albertans in Programs and/or Courses

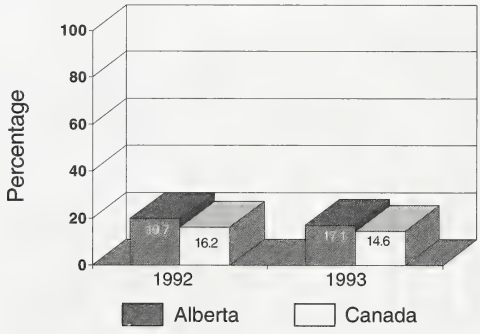


Source: Adult Education and Training in Alberta: An Analysis of Alberta Data from the 1994 Statistics Canada Adult Education and Training Survey

Individual Employees Who Said They Received Training From Their Employer

- This measure shows the percentage of Albertans who said that they received individual training sponsored by the employer.
- The indicator is based on a household survey sample from the Labour Force Survey. It is based on adults aged 17 or more and excludes youths aged 17-19 who were in full-time education and Albertans over 70.

Percentage of Individual Employees Who Said They Received Training from Employers

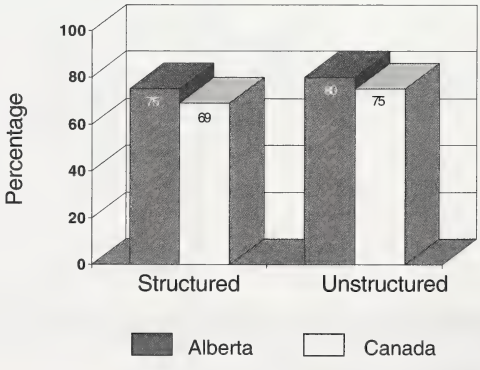


Source: Adult Education and Training in Alberta: An Analysis of Alberta Data from the 1994 Statistics Canada Adult Education and Training Survey

Percentage of Employers Who Said They Provided Training for Employees

- This measure shows the percentage of private sector employers in Alberta who said they provide employee training (structured and unstructured).
- The survey was intended to provide baseline information on the level of training in Canada. Survey results were based on a sample of private sector firms in Canada. Survey data is not available on a regular basis.
- Structured training includes all training activities that have a structured form; that is, have a predefined objective, specific content, and progress that is monitored and/or evaluated. Unstructured training refers to informal/on-the-job training; that is, training other than structured training.

Percentage of Employers Who Said They Provided Training for Employees

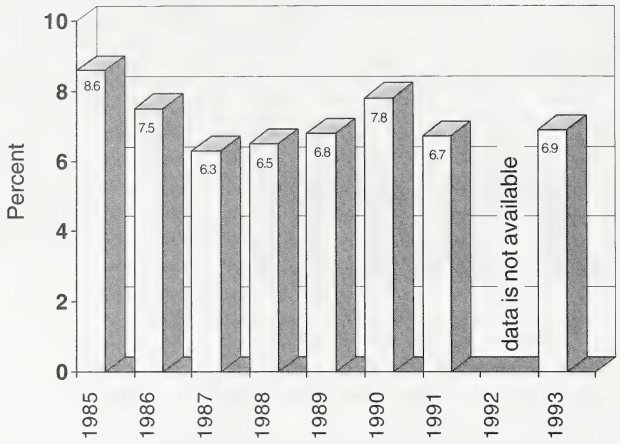


Source: 1991 National Training Survey conducted by the Canadian Labour Market and Productivity Center

Adoption of New Technologies

A cornerstone of Alberta's economic strategy is to increase the proportion of products and services offered by Alberta businesses which incorporate leading-edge technologies. Such products and services command a higher value in world markets and will contribute to increased prosperity in Alberta. To remain competitive, Alberta businesses must make use of and develop new technologies. It is vital that Alberta's business environment is conducive to the development and use of these new technologies.

Alberta Private Sector Research and Development as a Percentage of Canadian Private Sector Research and Development Expenditure



Source: Statistics Canada Service Bulletin Science Statistics V20 No 9

Results

Alberta business funding of research and development was 6.9% which was up slightly from 1991, but still below the target.

Goal

To develop the full potential of ideas and innovations to put Alberta at the forefront of research and development.

Measure

R&D expenditures funded by Alberta businesses expressed as a percentage of R&D spending by all Canadian businesses.

Target

In the long-term, R&D spending by Alberta businesses, as a percentage of total R&D spending by all Canadian businesses, should equal or exceed the percentage that Alberta's GDP represents of the national total. In 1993, this was equal to about 11%, and would require about a 60% increase in expenditure by Alberta industry.

Adoption of New Technologies

Methodology

Statistics Canada's Service Bulletin Science Statistics collects research and development expenditure performed and funded by business enterprises. This measure uses the statistics on the amount of research and development that business funds.

Strategies

Science, Research and Information Technology will:

- define key science and technology priorities to achieve the economic and social objectives of the government through public consultation.
- monitor and evaluate all government supported science and research to ensure that it is addressing the key priorities and balance short, medium and long term provincial economic and social needs.
- work to promote an increase in application and commercialization of science and technology based products, processes and services for the creation of jobs and wealth.

Advanced Education and Career Development established a Research Excellence Envelope to assist universities to make front-end investments to attract new researchers in areas of research excellence.

Agriculture, Food and Rural Development will improve the transfer of integrated and unbiased technology and information to assist industry competitiveness and market responsiveness.

Economic Development and Tourism will:

- identify and acquire information on the sources and means of accessing new technology such as biotechnology, advanced materials, information technologies, telecommunications, and other innovations, and distribute it widely to aid their introduction and use by Alberta industry.
- encourage and facilitate the commercial application of technology and research, generate awareness of new knowledge-based business opportunities, and champion applied research and technology development.
- work with **Science, Research and Information Technology** and other ministries to expedite the development of consistent and effective economic policy alternatives that enhance technology management, development, transfer, adaptation, adoption, and commercialization.
- partner with Alberta's public and private technology development companies and organizations.

Energy is promoting strategic energy and mineral resource esearch to reduce development costs and add value to Alberta's non-renewable resources.

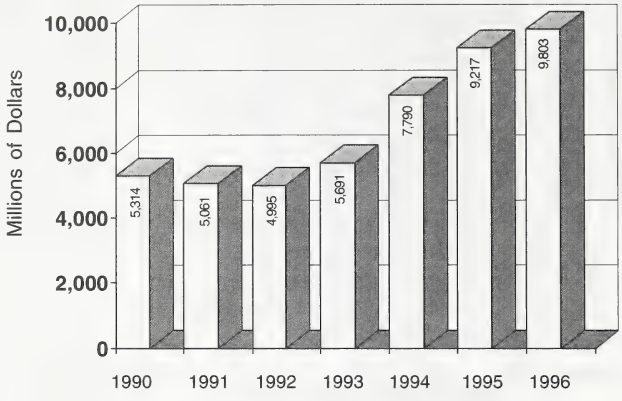
For additional measures, see the following ministries in the Appendix:

Science, Research and Information Technology
Advanced Education and Career Development
Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
Economic Development and Tourism
Energy

Adoption of New Technologies - Supplemental Information

Success in establishing greater growth in the high knowledge manufacturing sectors is an indication of Alberta's ability to compete in the profitable value-added segment of world markets. The following chart shows the value of manufacturing shipments in high knowledge manufacturing. High knowledge manufacturing sectors include: plastics products, machinery, transportation equipment, electrical and electronics products, and chemical and chemical products.

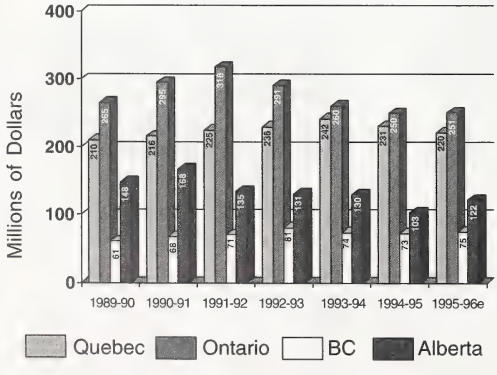
Alberta Manufacturing Shipments High Knowledge Manufacturing Sectors



Source: Statistics Canada - Cat. 31-203, table 10

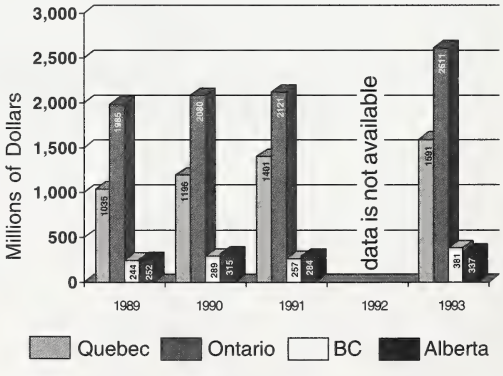
The following charts show total spending or investment (in millions of dollars) by private industry and provincial governments.

Provincial Government Investment in Research and Development



Note: 1993-94 figures are estimated.
Source: Statistics Canada - Cat. No. 88-001, Vol. 21

Private Sector Funding of Research and Development

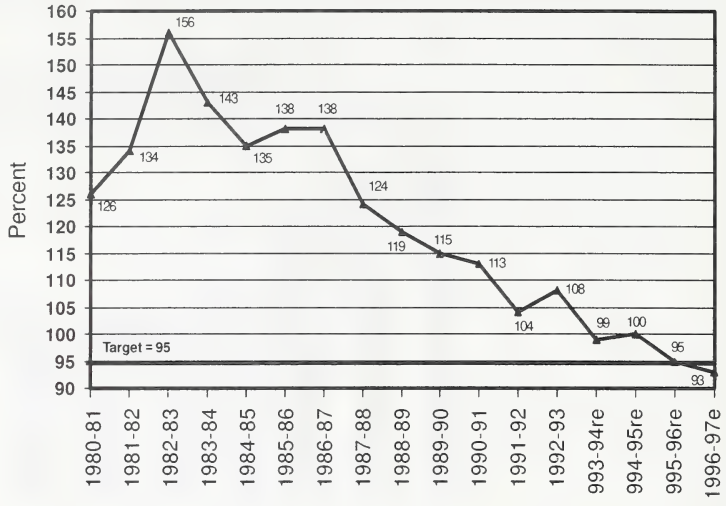


Note: 1993-94 figures are estimated.
Source: Statistics Canada Service Bulletin Science Statistics V20 No 9

Cost of Government

An indicator of the fiscal health of the province is the level of government expenditures. This measure compares the Alberta Government's per capita expenditure with the average of the other nine provinces.

Per Capita Alberta Government Expenditure as a Percentage of the Other Nine Provinces



Source: Statistics Canada (Financial Management Statistics) and Alberta Treasury
e = estimate
re = revised estimate

Results

Alberta dropped to 93% of the average per capita expenditure of the other nine provinces.

Goal

To maintain a balanced, stable financial situation in the province and to provide open, efficient, and accountable government.

Measure

Compares the per capita cost of government across provinces.

Target

The target is for Alberta Government expenditures to remain 5 percent below the average of the other nine provinces.

Cost of Government

Methodology

Expresses the per capita cost of provincial government as a percentage of the average per capita expenditure of the other nine provinces.

Strategies

Treasury will:

- monitor achievement towards the goals of the business and fiscal plans.
- refine business planning processes, financial administration and performance measurement to improve the cost-effectiveness of government.

All government departments actively explore means of increasing the efficiency of their operations and are committed to living within the financial limits set by government.

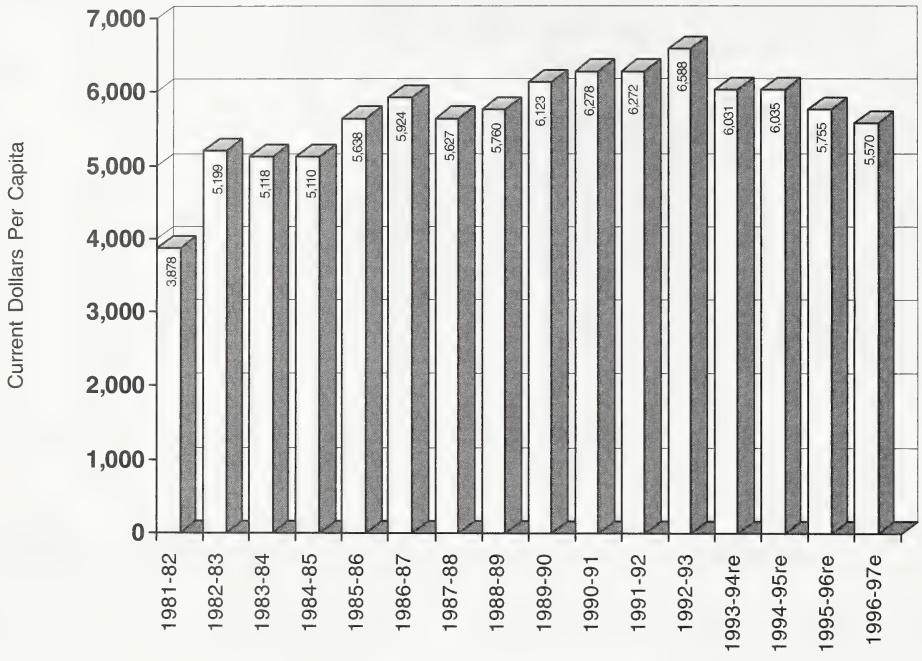
For additional measures, see the following ministries in the Appendix:

Treasury

Cost of Government - Supplemental Information

The following supplemental information provides the actual expenditures by the Alberta Government on a per capita basis, shown in current dollars.

Alberta Government Expenditures Per Capita 1981-82 to 1996-97



Source: Statistics Canada, Public Institutions Division

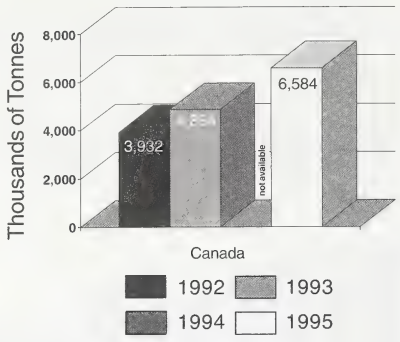
Note: In 1994, the province assumed full responsibility for basic education. As a result previously funded education is now included as a provincial expenditure. This results in approximately a $350 increase in provincial government expenditure per capita.

Transportation to Export Markets

Exporting goods and services to markets outside of Alberta is critical to the economy. This measure is an indicator of the effectiveness of Alberta's transportation systems, using the volume of goods transported as a proxy. Without an effective and efficient transportation system, exports of our goods and services would be hampered.

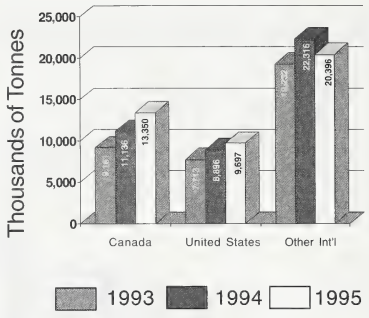
Note: Next year this measure will be revised to focus on exports by major commodity group. We will also provide a measure of Alberta's infrastructure and its ability to meet society's needs.

Truck Shipments



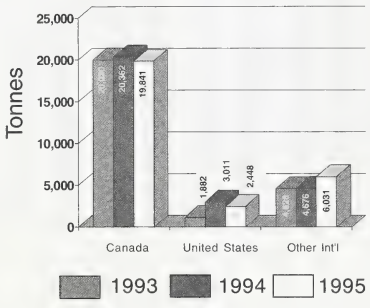
Source: Statistics Canada - Cat. 53-222

Rail Shipments



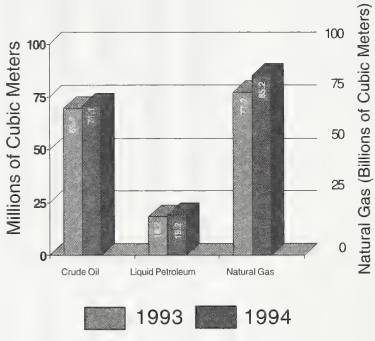
Source: Statistics Canada - Cat. 52-216

Air Cargo Shipments



Source: Statistics Canada - Cat. 51-005

Pipeline Shipments



Source: Statistics Canada - Cat. 55-201 and 57-205

Results

Truck shipments to other parts of Canada increased by 26% between 1993 and 1995. Rail shipments to Canada and the United States increased in 1995, but decreased to other international destinations. Air cargo shipments to other parts of Canada and the United States decreased in 1995, while shipments to other international destinations increased. 1995 data for pipeline shipments was not available.

Goal

To work with the private sector and other partners to open up opportunities for trade in new international markets, including ensuring that appropriate infrastructure is in place to enable the effective transportation of goods to market.

Measure

Increasing trade volumes serves as a proxy for the effectiveness of Alberta's transportation systems, as it is assumed that increased trade would not occur without effective transportation systems.

Target

The target is to increase the volume of goods exported from Alberta by 3% annually.

Transportation to Export Markets

Methodology

Statistics Canada monitors the value and volume of goods shipped for certain modes of transportation. Available volume data is presented in graphs on the previous page.

Strategies

The **Alberta Government** will work to ensure that effective transportation links are available to support trade to export and domestic markets. This includes access to foreign markets and the availability of connections to international business partners.

Transportation and Utilities will undertake strategic improvements to Alberta's North-South Trade Highway and pursue necessary infrastructure improvements that support the Alberta Advantage.

Agriculture, Food and Rural Development will:

- develop and advocate policies that improve market access
- recommend changes to federal and provincial policies and programs to allow industry to make effective/efficient use of opportunities arising from the World Trade Organization Agreement and the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Economic Development and Tourism will work with the **Alberta Economic Development Authority** on issues such as taxation, trade barriers, access to markets and transportation.

Energy will develop and manage a regulatory framework that encourages industry to perform responsible resource and facility development and provide for sound utility regulation.

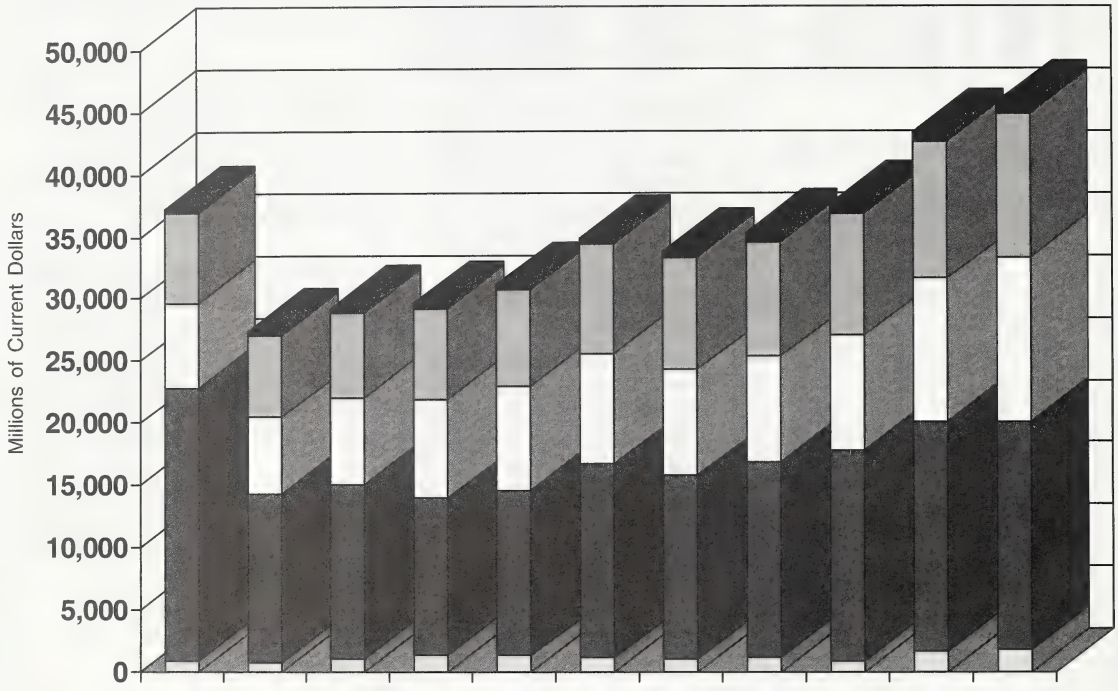
Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs will manage the implementation of intergovernmental trade agreements and coordinate Alberta's involvement in further negotiations on agreements.

For additional measures, see the following ministries in the Appendix:

Transportation and Utilities
Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
Economic Development and Tourism
Energy
Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs

The following chart shows the relative value of Alberta exports, by commodity or service, between 1985 and 1995.

Value of Alberta Exports by Major Commodity or Service Group



	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Grains	949	820	1,065	1,347	1,301	1,165	1,136	1,190	899	1,661	1,847
Minerals	21,894	13,477	13,982	12,582	13,253	15,487	14,602	15,701	16,888	18,392	18,269
Manufacturing	6,759	6,156	6,941	7,919	8,401	8,892	8,519	8,397	9,174	11,470	13,199
Other Services	7,335	6,544	6,907	7,278	7,683	8,766	8,993	9,245	9,812	11,017	11,502
Animals	273	300	280	441	438	445	484	666	740	815	851

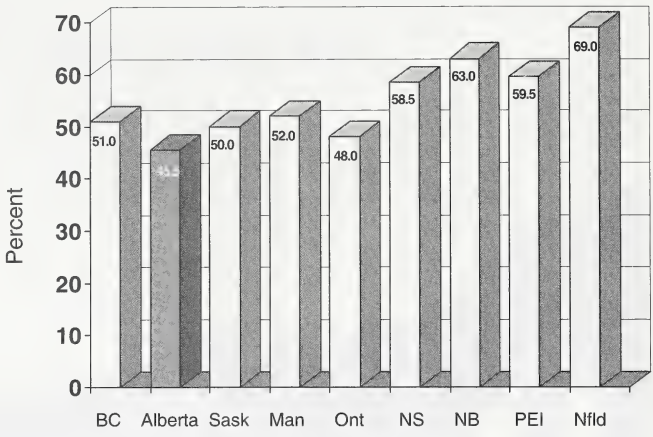
Note: Other Services includes travel, freight and shipping and other sources

Statistical Data Source: Alberta Treasury, Alberta Economic Accounts - 1995

Taxation Load

Albertans expect a fair, equitable, and simple taxation system. Personal income tax rates are one indicator of the provincial tax burden on Albertans. Using personal income tax rates also allows a simple comparison of Alberta's competitive tax position with other provinces.

Provincial Personal Income Tax Rates - 1997



These are basic provincial personal income tax rates expressed as a percentage of basic federal tax. Quebec's rate is not comparable.

Source: Alberta Treasury

Results

Alberta's rate of provincial personal income tax (as a percentage of the basic federal rate) for 1997 was the lowest in Canada.

Goal

Our goal is to create a climate conducive to investment, wealth generation and job creation.

Measure

The Taxation Load measure compares provincial income tax rates as a leading indicator of total provincial tax load.

Target

The target is to maintain the lowest personal income tax rate in Canada.

Taxation Load

Methodology

The provincial personal income tax rate is reported as a percentage of federal income tax and compared with other provinces.

Strategies

The Alberta Government remains committed to maintaining the lowest tax burden in Canada. The following initiatives were proposed (implemented) as part of the tax plan presented in Agenda '96:

- The implementation of the Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit (January 1997)
- Lowering residential and farm mill rate (reduced from 7.12 to 7.02 in 1997)
- Lowering business property mill rate (reduced from 10.44 to 10.30 in 1997)
- Eliminating the Manufacturing and Equipment Tax (on schedule for elimination by 1999)
- Reducing the international and domestic aviation fuel tax (reduced to 1.5 cents per litre ahead of schedule)
- Reduce the railway fuel tax (reduction on schedule)
- Eliminating the Flat Tax and Surtax (on hold following public feedback to *Straight Talk, Clear Choices*).

Treasury will:

- work with other provinces, Alberta's trading partners and with the federal government to improve tax regimes and tax systems.
- in conjunction with **Economic Development and Tourism**, monitor and continue to assess Alberta's competitive tax position.

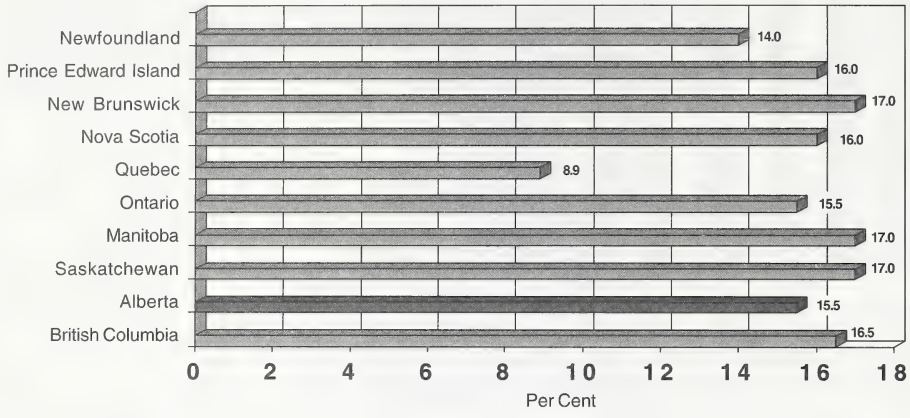
For additional measures, see the following ministries in the Appendix:

Treasury
Economic Development and Tourism

Taxation Load - Supplemental Information

The following chart compares provincial corporate income tax rates across the country. Alberta is tied with Ontario as having the third lowest rate of corporate income tax after Quebec and Newfoundland.

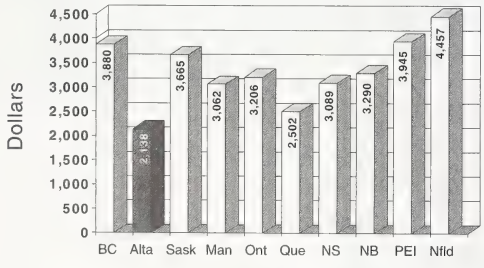
Provincial Corporate Income Tax Rates - 1997



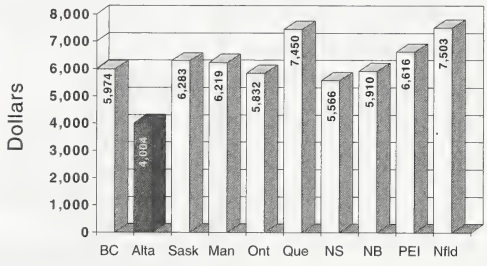
Source: Alberta Treasury

The charts below compare the typical taxes payable, including provincial income, sales and fuel taxes (excluding federal taxes and other indirect taxes), by a family with two children (8 and 10 years of age) earning $30,000, $55,000, and $100,000. Alberta's tax burden on families is the lowest in Canada, roughly 35% below the Canadian average (as of April 8, 1997).

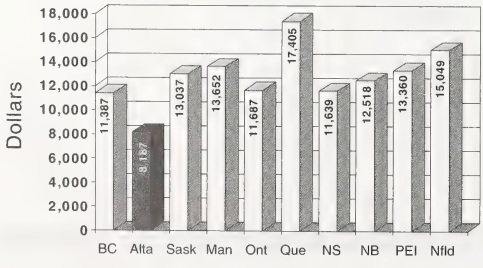
Selected Taxes Payable by a Family Earning $30,000 (one income) - 1997



Selected Taxes Payable by a Family Earning $55,000 (two incomes) - 1997



Selected Taxes Payable by a Family Earning $100,000 (two incomes) - 1997



Source: Alberta Treasury

Note: Assumptions for the calculation can be found in Budget '97 (page 65).

Provincial Credit Rating

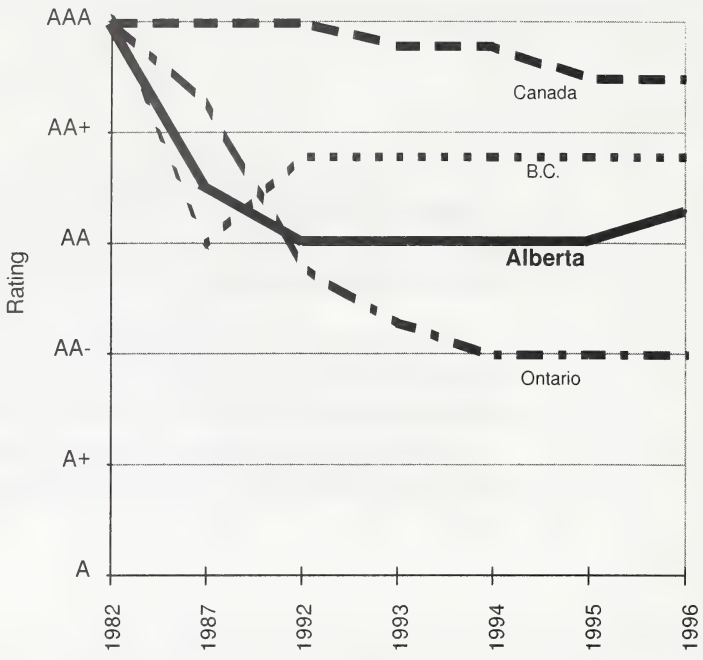
The province's credit rating is an indicator of the current and prospective fiscal position and the economic and political environment that affects the province's future strength and credit quality. This measure will monitor Alberta's progress towards a balanced, stable financial situation.

Credit ratings provide investors with a system of grading the relative credit qualities of governments. A rating represents a credit rating agency's assessment of the bond issuer's ability to meet the obligations of a specific debt issue in a timely manner. Bonds that are rated "AAA" to "BBB" are judged to be of investment grade.

Results

Alberta's credit rating in 1996 was slightly above AA, second only to British Columbia. The increase is owing to an upgrade by the Canadian Bond Rating Service to AA+.

Blended Credit Rating



Source: Alberta Treasury

Note: The blended credit rating is an average of the credit ratings issued by the following credit rating agencies: Standard and Poor's, Moody's, Dominion Bond Rating Service, and Canadian Bond Rating Service.

Goal

Our goal is to maintain a balanced, stable financial situation in the province.

Measure

Measures the relative quality of provincial bonds over time. A strong rating reflects investor confidence in the financial soundness of the province and reduces borrowing costs.

Target

The target is to achieve the highest credit rating amongst the provinces.

Provincial Credit Rating

Methodology

A blended rate of domestic debt assessments by Standard and Poor's, Moody's, Dominion Bond Rating Service, and the Canadian Bond Rating Service.

Strategies

The **Alberta Government** will work towards achieving the highest possible provincial credit rating by maintaining a sustainable balanced budget, keeping expenses at an affordable level, and paying down the debt using any surplus revenues.

Treasury will seek to keep Alberta's finances in order through prudent forecasts and monitoring the achievement of business and fiscal plan goals. Budget processes and financial mechanisms will be refined to maximize the efficiency of government, and Treasury will make public timely, relevant, and understandable information about the government's finances.

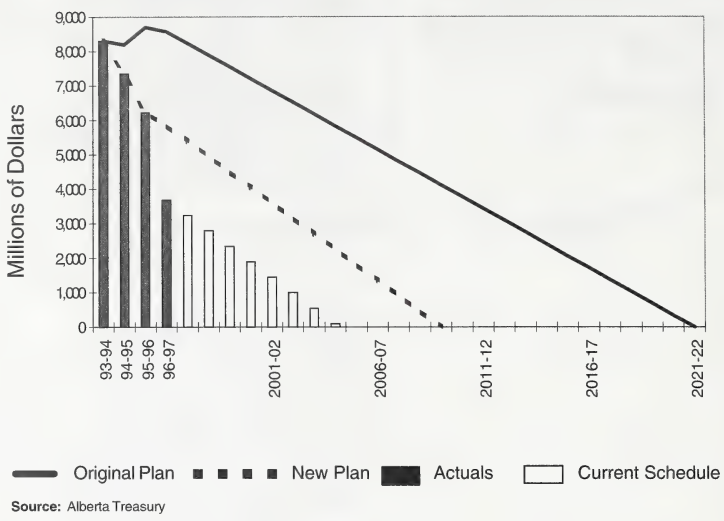
For additional measures, see the following ministries in the Appendix:

Treasury

Net Debt

Albertans are concerned about the amount of debt the province owes. In 1993-94 the province's net debt (the difference between assets and liabilities and excluding pension liabilities) exceeded $8 billion. Net Debt is an indicator of the financial strength of the province and the long-term performance of the government. A high amount of debt becomes a burden to future generations of Albertans. The province has changed its legislated plan to eliminate net debt. Originally, net debt was to be eliminated by 2021-22. Now, the net debt must be eliminated by 2009-10.

Net Debt (Excluding Pension Liabilities)



Source: Alberta Treasury

Results

The province's net debt, excluding pension liabilities, was reduced by $2.527 billion from the previous year. The net provincial debt at the end of 1996-97 was $3.696 billion.

Goal

Our goal is to maintain a balanced, stable financial situation in the province and to provide, open, efficient and accountable government, including the elimination of Alberta's net debt.

Measure

The Net Debt measure compares the net debt (referred to as net financial debt in the Consolidated Financial Statements) of the province against the targets set out under the Balanced Budget and Debt Retirement Act and the province's annual budget.

Target

The Balanced Budget and Debt Retirement Act requires net debt, excluding pension liabilities, to be eliminated by 2009-10.

Net Debt

Methodology

The annual Public Accounts report the province's net debt for the year. Net debt is defined as the difference between the province's financial assets and its liabilities, excluding pension liabilities. Assets do not include capital assets such as land and buildings, but do include external Heritage Fund investments and loans to farmers and small businesses. Liabilities include General Revenue Fund and crown corporation liabilities, and accounts payable, less Heritage Fund and other internal debt holdings (Alberta Municipal Financing Corporation loans are excluded).

Strategies

The **Alberta Government:**

- plans to pay off the province's net debt at an average rate of $450 million a year. The Balanced Budget and Debt Retirement Act requires that the net debt, excluding pension liabilities, be eliminated no later than 2009-10. The Government has a separate plan to eliminate the unfunded pension liability.
- will continue to budget conservatively on its revenue forecasts, and use surpluses to pay down the debt.

Treasury will:

- seek to keep Alberta's finances in order through prudent forecasts and monitoring the achievement of business and fiscal plan goals. Budget and business planning processes will be refined to maximize the efficiency of government.
- restructure the Alberta Heritage Saving Trust Fund.
- sell and wind up non-core financial assets including those of the AGT Commission and N.A. Properties.

For additional measures, see the following ministries in the Appendix:

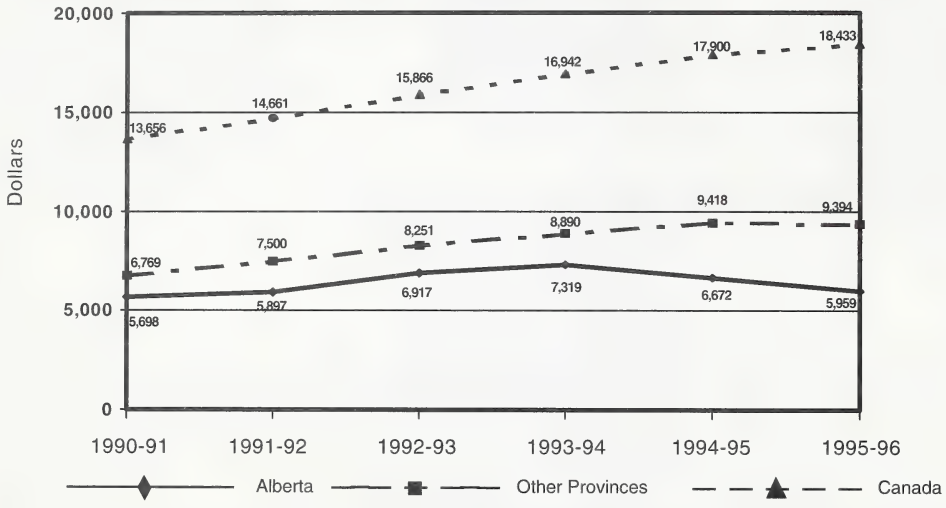
Treasury

Net Debt - Supplemental Information

This supplemental information compares Alberta's total public debt per capita against the average of eight other provinces (Standard and Poor's does not rate PEI) and Canada since 1991.

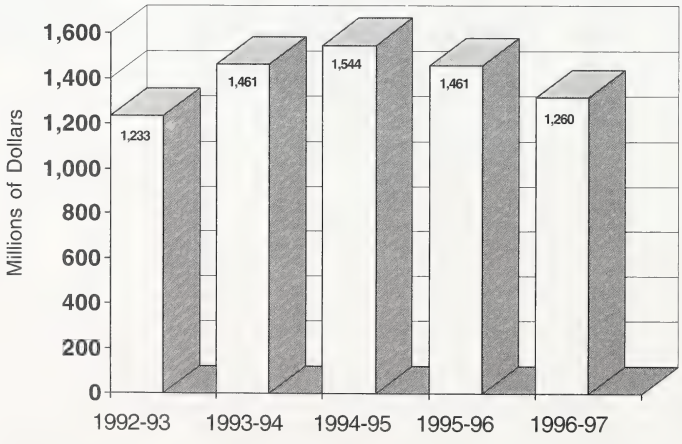
Standard and Poor's calculation of public debt includes direct debt, guaranteed debt, provincial corporation debt, and other public sector debt. This method nets off sinking funds, deposits with financial institutions to finance farm and small business loans, internal holdings of the Heritage Fund and the external liquid assets of the Heritage Fund. Standard and Poor's does not calculate federal debt in the same way as for the provinces and therefore the federal figure is interest bearing federal government debt, net of current financial assets and net foreign exchange accounts.

Per Capita Public Debt



Source: Standard & Poor's and Alberta Treasury

Actual Annual Debt Servicing Costs



Note: Alberta Treasury - Consolidated Public Accounts

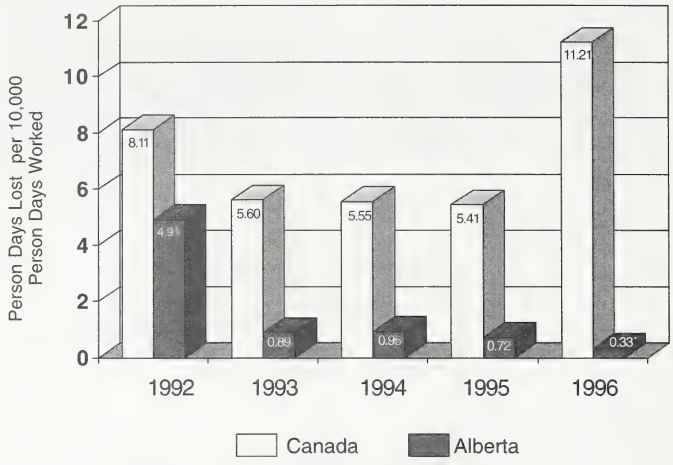
Workplace Climate

Investment in the province is, to some extent, determined by cooperative labour relations, fairness, and occupational health and safety in the workplace. These measures not only look at protective actions, but also proactive steps such as increasing levels of partnership among business, labour and government. It is an important ingredient in the quality of life for working Albertans.

Results

Days lost to disputes dropped by over 50% from 1995 to 1996 in Alberta compared to an increase of over 100% for Canada. Time lost owing to injuries also declined slightly over the same period.

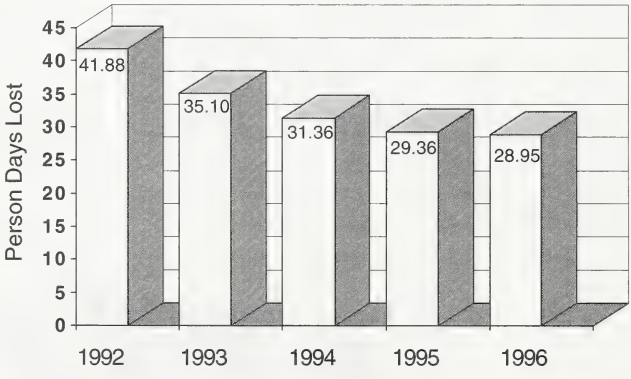
Person Days Lost to Disputes per 10,000 Person Days Worked



Source: The Labour Force, Statisitics Canada Cat #71-001, Federal Government Employment , Statisitics Canada Cat # 72-004 (1982-1993) and Public Sector Employment, Statistics Canada Cat # 72-209 (Since 1994)

Time Lost Owing to Injuries - Alberta

(Person-Days Lost per 10,000 Person-Days Worked)



Source: Alberta Labour and Workers' Compensation Board

Goal

Our goal is to ensure a safe and attractive workplace environment which will enhance productivity and support economic growth.

Measure

We have adopted two measures for workplace climate. The first tracks time lost owing to strikes and lockouts and provides an indication of labour stability. The second tracks days lost owing to injuries or death and reflects safety in the workplace.

Target

The target is to minimize the amount of time lost owing to workplace disputes and injuries.

Workplace Climate

Methodology

Statistics Canada provides data on days lost due to strikes and lockouts.

The Workers' Compensation Board has provided a summary of time lost due to workplace injuries.

Strategies

Labour will assist the province's economic development by promoting high standards in the workplace, in terms of organization, operation, safety systems and occupational health and safety.

Community Development will work to reduce discrimination and foster equality so all Albertans have the opportunity to participate fully in the social and economic life of the province.

For additional measures, see the following ministries in the Appendix:

Labour
Community Development

Preservation

preserving the Alberta tradition

Government Goals

- To protect the safety and security of Albertans and ensure that Alberta is a safe place to live and raise families.
- To ensure that Alberta's renewable resources are sustained and the high quality of Alberta's environment is maintained.
- To preserve and increase appreciation for Alberta's diverse natural, historic, and cultural resources.
- To maintain Alberta's strong position in Canada and work with other governments to ensure an effective federal system.
- To support individuals, families and communities to deal with change.
- To ensure that all Albertans can participate fully in the social, cultural, and economic life of the province.

Core Performance Measures

- Crime Rate
- Serious Youth Crime
- Resource Sustainability
- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Land Quality

Performance Highlights

Preservation . . . preserving the Alberta tradition

The core business of *preservation* describes the government's work in fostering:

- strong communities
- a safe society where justice prevails
- a clean environment
- pride in Alberta and strength within Canada, and
- strong values and culture.

There are six government goals for the *preservation* core business and six *preservation* performance measures. **Overall, there has been limited change in performance.** The following are the 1996-97 performance highlights for these six *preservation* measures. The meaning of the symbols is:

✔ target achieved
⇧ improved performance
⇩ declining performance
▬ no change in performance from previous year

⇧ **Crime Rate** - Violent and property crime rates continue to drop. Last year, the violent crime rate dropped by 4.9%, while property crimes were down 4.4%. Alberta's violent crime rate remains slightly above the Canadian average; however, the property crime rate has dropped below the national average.

▬ **Serious Youth Crime** - Data for 1995-96 serious youth crimes rates will not be available until the summer. Youth crime rates in Alberta were above the Canadian average in 1994-95.

▬ **Resource Sustainability** - Alberta's timber harvest remains below the annual allowable cut. The coniferous harvest was at 95% of the annual allowable cut; the deciduous harvest was at 47%. The replacement rate of conventional oil and natural gas reserves has been insufficient to offset production. The area of land under crop production increased about 3% between 1991 and 1996.

✔ **Air Quality** - On average, the quality of Alberta's air continues to be rated either good or fair every day, with 360 days rated good in 1996.

▬ **Water Quality** - There has been little change in the quality of Alberta river water from last year. The quality of Alberta rivers is still generally fair to good, but there are parts of the rivers that can't be used for recreational purposes. Water quality is poorer downstream from major cities or from large developments.

⇧ **Land Quality** - This is a new measure from last year. Land use change over time provides little information on land quality, so we will now report on land productivity in terms of tonnes produced per acre. Land productivity has improved over the 1971-1980 baseline.

The 1996-97 results indicate that in general we are making progress in some areas, but need to be vigilant in others. In the *preservation* core businesses, areas for improvement are:

- **Violent Crime Rate** - While Alberta's property crime rate has fallen below the national average, the violent crime rate still remains slightly above the Canadian average. Albertans want to feel safe in their own homes and communities; however, many Albertans still do not feel safe even with the drop in reported crime.

- **Serious Youth Crime** - Although the 1995-96 data is not yet available, Alberta's youth crime rates in 1994-95 were significantly above the Canadian average. Youth crime charges comprise 26% of all charges laid, with the majority (60%) being property related.

- **Remaining Oil and Gas Reserves** - Alberta's remaining conventional oil and gas reserves continue to decline as current production levels exceed additions to supply. New discoveries and additions through new technologies have only replaced about 54% of conventional oil production in recent years, and about 58% of natural gas production. This has resulted in remaining established conventional oil reserves falling below 7 years supply, and natural gas falling below 12 years supply. However, recoverable oil sands reserves were estimated at 260 years supply in 1995.

- **Downstream Water Quality** - Water quality downstream from major urban areas continues to exceed recreational use guidelines for three of the province's six major rivers. Phosphorus levels downstream of Edmonton, Red Deer and Lethbridge often exceed water quality guidelines.

Crime Rate

Albertans want their homes and communities to be safe. The distribution and type of crime indicates the relative safety of Alberta communities. It may also be an indicator of the strength of families, the education system and our economy.

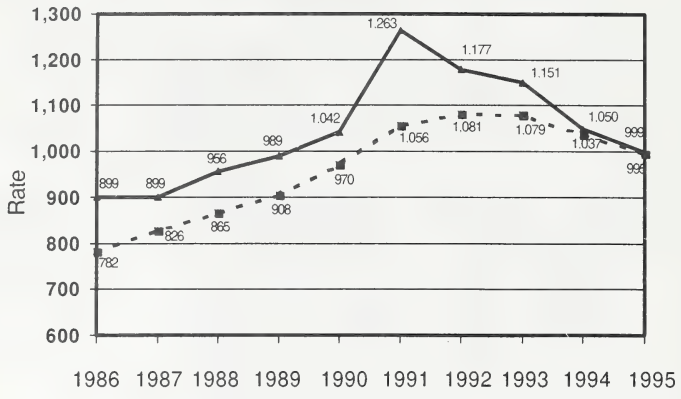
Crime is defined as the total number of *Criminal Code of Canada* incidents.

Results

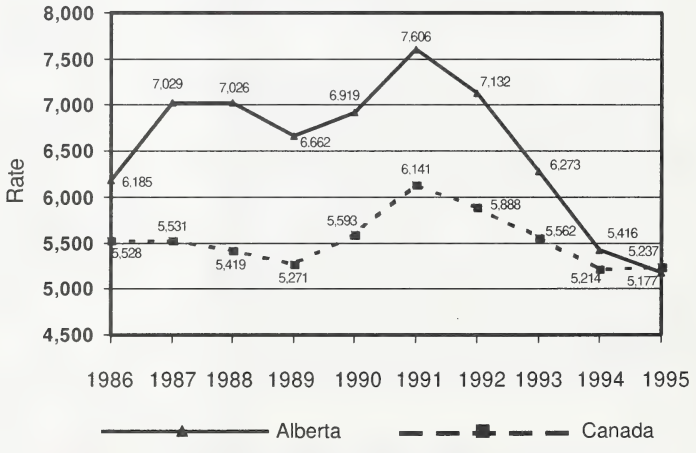
Alberta continues to show improvement in reducing the incidence of crime. In 1995, Alberta met its target for property crime by reducing its rate to below the Canadian average.

Last year, violent and property crime rates fell by 4.9% and 4.4% respectively.

Violent Crime Rate per 100,000 Population



Property Crime Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

Goal

To protect the safety and security of Albertans and ensure that Alberta is a safe place to live, work and raise families.

Measure

Measures the violent and property crime rates over time and compares these to the Canadian crime rates. A formal report must be filed with the police to affect the crime rate.

Target

To reduce Alberta's crime rates below the Canadian average by the year 2000.

Crime Rate

Methodology

Crime statistics are collected using the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey which is a common survey used to measure police reported crime in each Canadian jurisdiction.

Crime rates may vary owing to the differences in the jurisdictions' enforcement methods, charging practices and available diversion programs, rather than the incidence of actual crime.

Population data from Statistics Canada is used to convert reported crime into crime rates per 100,000 population.

Strategies

Justice will:

- focus its efforts and resources on dealing with serious and violent crime.
- continue to promote community policing and increase community involvement.
- identify and manage violent offenders.
- improve access to justice and provide support and protection to vulnerable citizens.

Family and Social Services will strive to help individuals be independent and to keep children safe by:

- focusing on prevention and early intervention for children.
- being more responsive to the needs of Aboriginal people.
- providing services to victims of family violence.

Standards

- Violent crime involves offences that deal with the application or threat of application of force to a person including: homicide, attempted murder, assaults, sexual assaults, other sexual offences, abduction, and robbery.

- Property crime involves unlawful acts with the intent of gaining property but do not involve the use or threat of violence against an individual. Property incidents include: breaking and entering, motor vehicle theft, theft over $5,000, theft $5,000 and under, possession of stolen goods, and fraud.

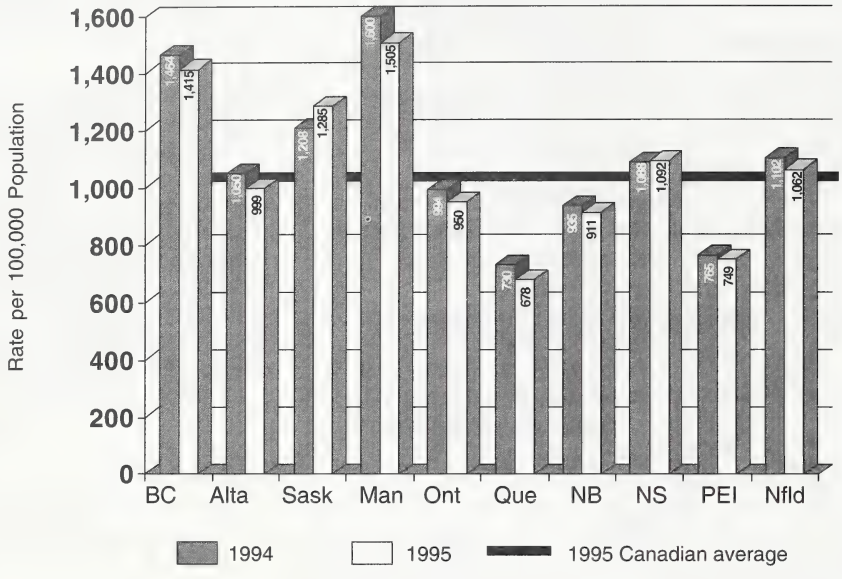
For additional measures, see the following ministries in the Appendix:

Justice
Family and Social Services

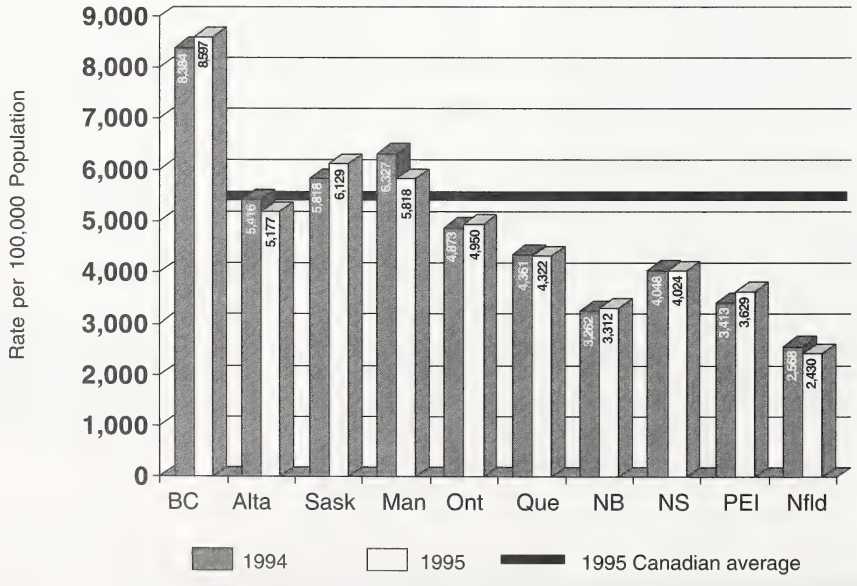
Selected Canadian Crime Statistics

(Rates per 100,000 Population)

Violent Crime Offence Rates



Property Crime Offence Rate



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS

Serious Youth Crime

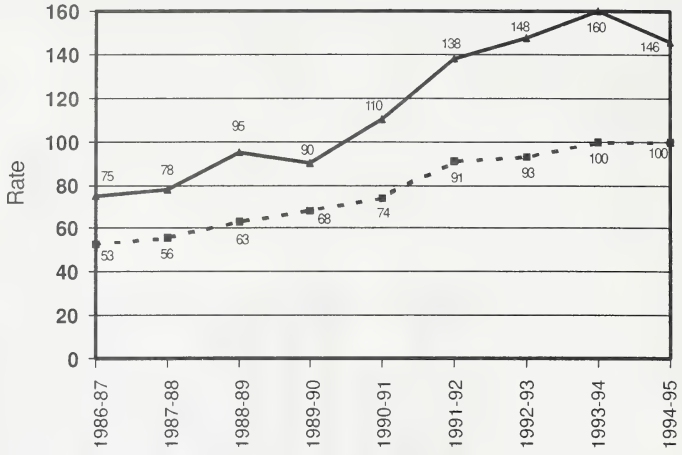
Albertans want their homes and communities to be safe. The distribution and type of youth crime indicates the relative safety of Alberta communities and is a general indicator of social stability. It may also be an indicator of the strength of families, the education system and our economy.

Results

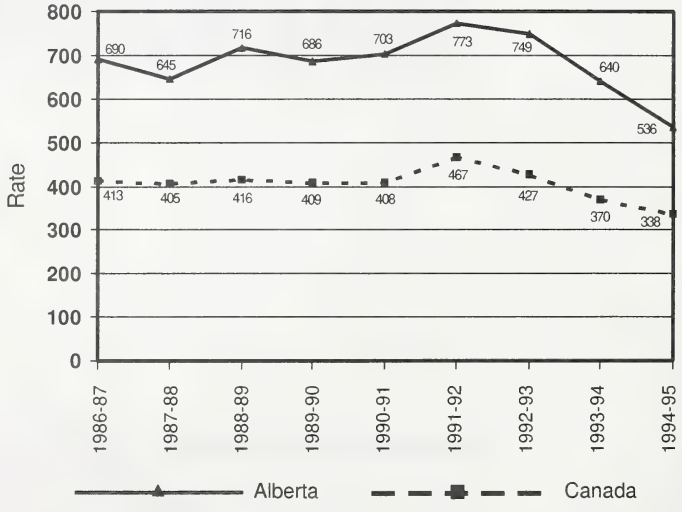
Statistics for 1995-96 will not be available from the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics until the summer.

The youth property and violent crime rate fell 16.3% and 8.8% respectively between 1993-94 and 1994-95. The gap between Alberta and Canada has narrowed over this time period.

Young Offenders - Violent Crime Rate per 100,000 Population



Young Offenders - Property Crime Rate per 100,000 Population



Note: Canadian data excludes Ontario and the Northwest Territories

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics — Youth Court Statistics

Goal

Our goal is to protect the safety and security of Albertans and ensure that Alberta is a safe place to live, work and raise families.

Measure

Measures the violent and property crime rate over time and compares these to the Canadian crime rates. Charges must be laid for reported crime to affect the crime rate.

Target

To reduce Alberta's crime rates below the Canadian average by the year 2000.

Serious Youth Crime

Methodology

The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics collects youth court data from each jurisdiction. The data is published in the annual Youth Court Statistics report. The rate data on the previous page is based on the number of charges laid against youth.

Crime rates may vary owing to differences in the jurisdictions' enforcement methods, charging practices and available diversion programs rather than the incidence of actual crime.

Strategies

Justice will:

- implement the approved recommendations of the Task Force Report on the administration of the *Young Offenders Act.*
- facilitate the establishment of community justice committees and sentencing panels for youth.
- ensure the availability of appropriate prevention/early intervention programs for children who are at risk for future criminal involvement

Education will work with students and other partners to identify ways to improve student conduct and school climate.

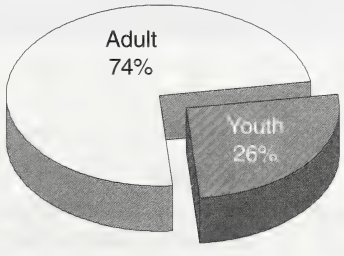
Family and Social Services will focus on prevention and early intervention services for children.

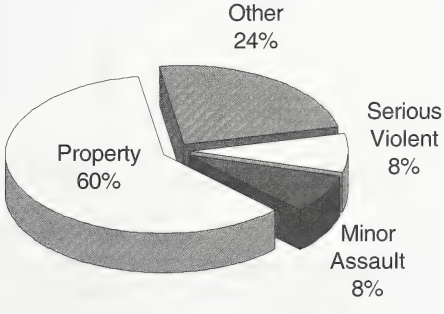
Standards

- Violent crime involves offences that deal with the application or threat of application of force to a person including: homicide, attempted murder, assaults, sexual assaults, other sexual offences, abduction, and robbery.

- Property crime involves unlawful acts with the intent of gaining property but do not involve the use or threat of violence against an individual. Property incidents include: breaking and entering, motor vehicle theft, theft over $5,000, theft $5,000 and under, possession of stolen goods, and fraud.

The following charts indicate the level of charges against youth as a percentage of all criminal charges laid in Alberta (left chart), and a breakdown by type of crime (right chart).





Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

For additional measures, see the following ministries in the Appendix:

Justice
Education
Family and Social Services

Resource Sustainability

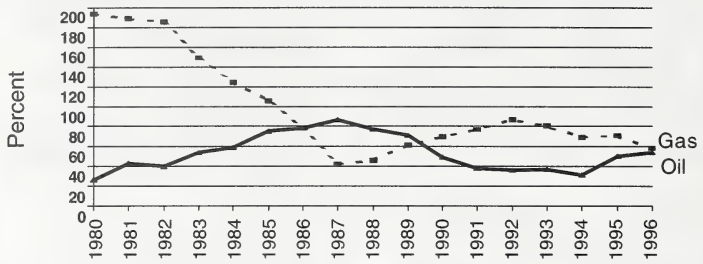
Alberta's natural resources are the foundation of our economy. Ensuring the long term sustainability of our renewable resources (forests, parks and agricultural lands) will help ensure long term prosperity for the province. Wise use of our non-renewable resources (oil, oil sands and natural gas) will ensure that current and future generations benefit from their use. These indicies for oil and gas, forestry and agricultural land indicate the general health of these resources and their ability to maintain production on a sustainable basis.

Results

The replacement rate for gas reserves continues to decline, while the ratio for oil has been increasing. Alberta's timber harvest remains below the annual allowable cut. The coniferous harvest in 1995-96 was at 95.3% of the annual allowable cut, and the deciduous harvest was at 47.3%. There has been about a 3% increase in the amount of agricultural land under crops between 1991 and 1996.

Oil and Gas Index

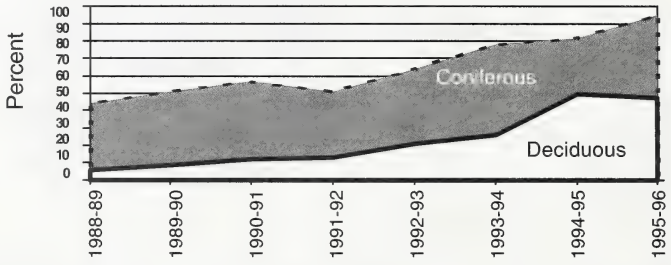
Percentage of Oil and Gas Production (5-year moving average) Replaced by Increased Reserves



Source: Alberta Energy and Utilities Board

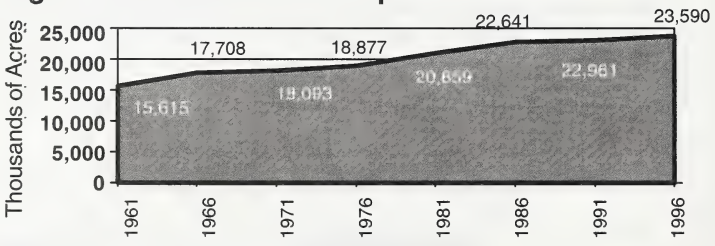
Timber Sustainability Index

Timber Harvest as a Percentage of Annual Allowable Cut



Source: Alberta Environmental Protection

Agricultural Land Under Crops



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture

Goal

To ensure that Alberta's natural resources are sustained and the high quality of Alberta's environment is maintained.

Measure

Measures the status of our stock of timber, and oil and natural gas by comparing the level of production of each resource to the growth in supply. In the case of agricultural land, the area of land under crops is tracked over time.

Target

The oil and gas industry will continue to replace production with new discoveries and new technologies. Alberta's timber harvest will remain below the annual allowable cut. The stock of agricultural land will be maintained.

Resource Sustainability

Methodology

The oil and gas index compares the production of oil and gas to the increase in reserves through exploration, new discoveries and development activities (using a five-year moving average). This graph does not show oil sands (crude bitumen) reserves or production rates. The gas series reflects the change to a "just-in-time" supply policy.

Timber sustainability compares the annual timber harvest with the annual allowable cut (AAC) as set by the province. The AAC is the amount of timber that can be harvested on a sustainable basis within a defined planning area. Planning area forest management strategies also take into account other forest uses outside of timber production.

The agriculture indicator tracks the number of acres of land under crop production.

Strategies

Energy works to ensure economic recovery of Alberta's oil, natural gas and coal resources, and prevention of waste, to maximize long term revenue to the province.

Environmental Protection will ensure that forests are managed in a sustainable manner and are protected from fire, insects and disease.

Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development will:

- encourage and conduct research that will improve crop and livestock production while sustaining and improving resources.
- implement a new provincial Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Program.

Standards

- Annual allowable cut is the maximum allowable harvest of timber set by Environmental Protection. A ratio of timber harvest to AAC which exceeds 100% is not sustainable over time. Yearly harvest levels may be greater than the AAC, but should not exceed it over each five-year harvest plan.
- AAC is established taking into consideration factors such as: forest inventory, growth rates, changes to reserved areas (e.g., provincial parks), regeneration success, natural mortality, and the impact of fire and insects.

For additional measures, see the following ministries in the Appendix:

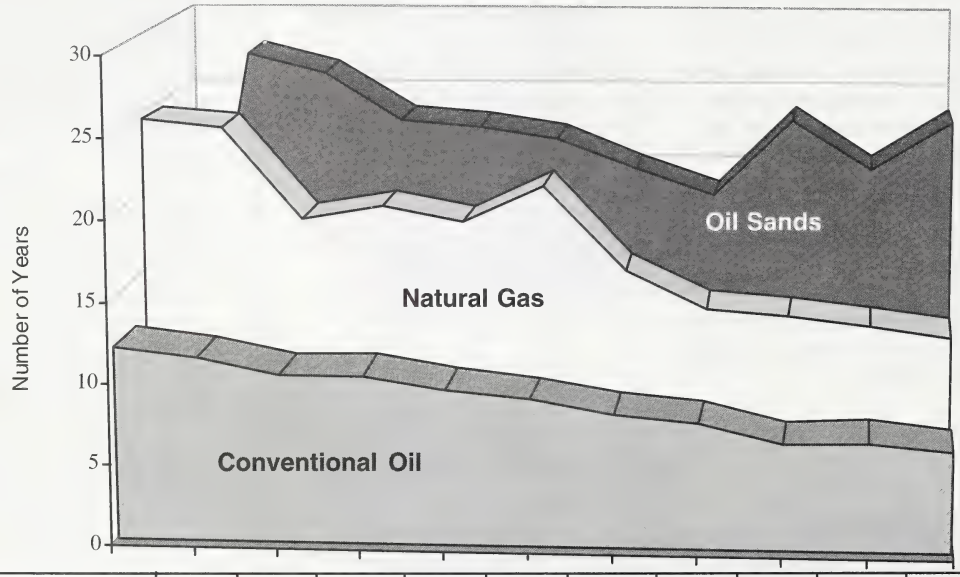
Energy
Environmental Protection
Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

The graph below indicates the number of remaining years of supply of established reserves for oil, oil sands and natural gas, based upon current production levels. Changes in supply can occur through new discoveries, new technologies or changing economic conditions.

Established reserves may vary significantly from known reserves. For example, in 1995, remaining established oil sands reserves were estimated at 574 million cubic metres by the Energy and Utilities Board. Recoverable oil sands reserves were estimated at 6.6 billion cubic metres, (260 year supply at the 1995 production level), and ultimate potential reserves were estimated at 49 billion cubic metres.

Remaining Established Reserves

(Years of Supply Based on Current Production)



	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Conventional Oil	11.39	10.37	10.42	9.61	9.11	8.25	7.85	6.61	6.72	6.24
Natural Gas	24.15	18.37	19.23	18.28	20.64	15.33	12.96	12.54	11.96	11.33
Oil Sands	27.69	26.47	23.37	23.00	22.20	20.26	18.60	23.54	20.35	23.51

Source: Alberta Energy and Utilities Board
Alberta Reserves of Crude Oil, Oil Sands, Natural Gas and Sulphur

Air Quality

One of Albertans' key concerns about the environment is the quality of air we breathe. Ensuring the protection of Alberta's clean air is paramount to maintaining our health and quality of life. Poor air quality may also have negative effects on crop quality and production. The air quality index provides an indication of the quality of air in Alberta throughout the year.

Number of Days of Good, Fair, Poor and Very Poor Air Quality Days Each Year

	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
1987	350	15	0	0
1988	355	11	0	0
1989	356	9	0	0
1990	354	11	0	0
1991	352	13	0	0
1992	361	5	0	0
1993	359	6	0	0
1994	349	16	0	0
1995	358	7	0	0
1996	360	6	0	0

Source: Alberta Environmental Protection

Results

While there were no days rated poor to very poor last year, there were a number of hours rated poor. Poor levels typically occur less than five hours per year.

Goal

To ensure that the high quality of Alberta's environment is maintained.

Measure

The number of days that air is rated good, fair, poor or very poor using the guidelines established by Alberta's Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA) and National Air Quality Objectives.

Target

To maintain air quality at levels which are considered "good" or "fair" at all times.

Air Quality

Methodology

The measure is based on data collected from eight continuous monitoring stations across the province - three stations in both Edmonton and Calgary, and one station in both Fort Saskatchewan and Fort McMurray. The data from these stations are used to calculate the Index of Quality of Air (IQUA) every hour.

The IQUA is based on outdoor concentrations of five major air pollutants (carbon monoxide, the coefficient of haze, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, and sulphur dioxide). The concentration of each pollutant is converted to an IQUA number, and the highest number is the IQUA for that station. IQUA ratings are divided into Good, Fair, Poor and Very Poor categories. These categories are derived using formulas based on air quality guidelines of the Alberta EPEA and the National Air Quality Objectives.

Strategies

Environmental Protection monitors air quality to ensure that guidelines under the EPEA and standards in accordance with the National Air Quality Objectives are met.

Environmental Protection, Energy and **Health** will work within the Clean Air Strategic Alliance to develop priorities to maintain or enhance Alberta's air quality.

Energy will encourage industry and government participation in the national Voluntary Challenge and Registry Program, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Public Works, Supply and Services will minimize environmental impact of operations by reducing natural gas and power consumption.

Standards

The following table provides a description of the effects on the environment, vegetation, human health, and visibility resulting from air quality ratings.

IQUA Rating	Effects
Good (0-25)	No known harmful effects to soil, water, vegetation, animals, visibility or human health.
Fair (26-50)	Adequate protection against harmful effects to soil, water, vegetation, animals, materials, visibility and human health.
Poor (51-100)	Not all aspects of the environment are adequately protected from possible adverse effects. Long-term control action may be necessary, depending on the frequency, duration and circumstances of the readings.
Very Poor (100+)	In this range, further deterioration of air quality and continued high readings could pose a risk to public health.

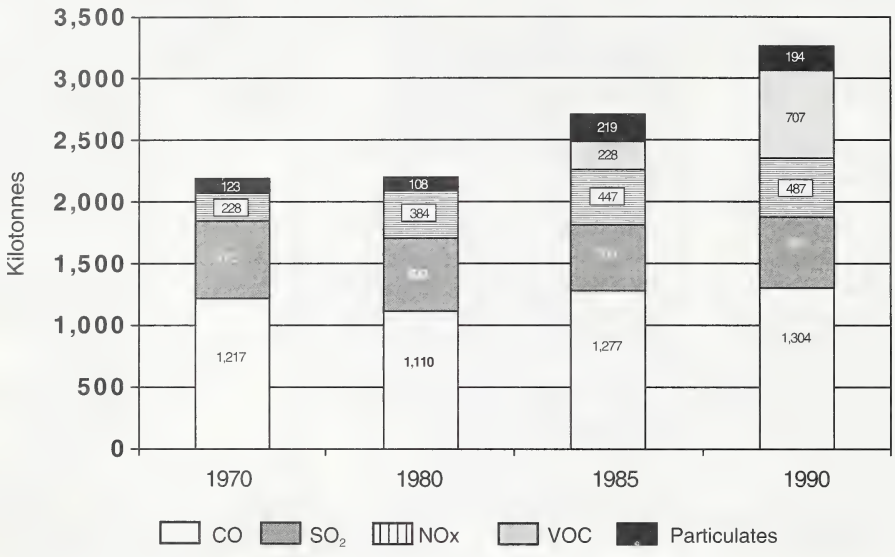
For additional measures, see the following ministries in the Appendix:

Environmental Protection
Energy
Health
Public Works, Supply and Services

Air Quality - Supplemental Information

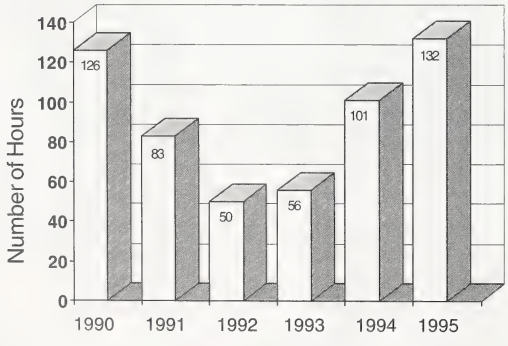
Emissions of air pollutants affect overall air quality in Alberta. Emissions data are compiled by Environmental Protection from various sources including industries, fuel consumption by automobiles, waste incineration, and other miscellaneous sources. The most important pollutants are sulphur dioxide (SO_2), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NOx), volatile organic compounds (VOC), and particulates (including smoke and dust). The graph below shows the trend of total air pollutant emissions since 1970 throughout Alberta.

Total Air Pollutant Emissions in Alberta

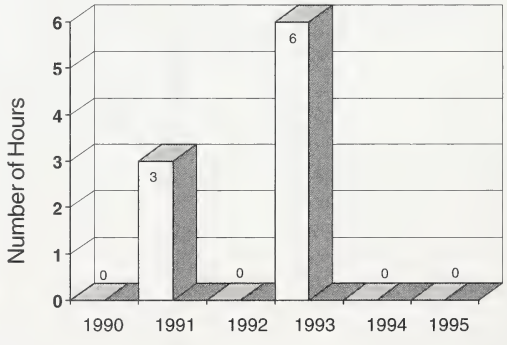


Note: VOC data not available before 1985.
Source: Alberta Environmental Protection and Environment Canada

Sulphur Dioxide Levels Exceeding Guidelines (450 micrograms per cubic metre)



Nitrogen Dioxide Levels Exceeding Guidelines (400 micrograms per cubic metre)



Note: Data collected by industry monitoring stations.
Source: Alberta Environmental Protection

Sulphur dioxide can decrease growth rates of crops and trees, corrode metals and weaken textiles and building materials. Sulphur dioxide irritates the throat and lungs and can damage the respiratory system. Most emissions are from the energy industry.

Nitrogen dioxide may be toxic to plants at high concentration levels, and can irritate the lungs and increase susceptibility to respiratory infections. In combination with either ozone or sulphur dioxide, it may cause injury to vegetation at even low concentration levels. The largest urban source is motor vehicle emissions.

Water Quality

Water is one of the fundamental necessities of life. The quality of water can be evaluated on the basis of how it affects various uses including recreation, agriculture and the protection of aquatic life. River water quality is used for this measure because the effects of human activities are generally more evident in rivers than in lakes.

The use of river water for drinking is not evaluated. Untreated water is not safe to drink because of the possible presence of natural disease-causing organisms. Further, a good or fair rating for the protection of aquatic life does not imply that the consumption of fish is necessarily safe.

Water Quality Index: Suitability of Alberta's Major Rivers for Various Uses

Location	Recreation	Aquatic Life	Agriculture	Issues - Concerns
SMOKY/PEACE RIVER				
at Watimo	○	⊗	○	pulp mill & municipal effluents
at Ft Vermilion	○	⊗	⊗	
ATHABASCA RIVER				
at Athabasca	⊗	○	○	pulp mill & municipal effluents
at Old Fort	⊗	○	○	
NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER				
upstream of Edmonton	○	○	○	municipal, industrial and
downstream of Edmonton	●	⊗	○	non-point pollution sources
RED DEER RIVER				
upstream of Red Deer	○	○	○	municipal, industrial and
downstream of Red Deer	○	⊗	○	non-point pollution sources
BOW RIVER				
upstream of Calgary	○	○	○	municipal & non-point pollution
downstream of Calgary	●	⊗	⊗	sources; reduced flow due to water withdrawal
OLDMAN RIVER				
upstream of Lethbridge	○	⊗	○	municipal & non-point pollution
downstream of Lethbridge	●	⊗	○	sources

Based on percentage of compliant tests in 1995

○ water quality is good:	very few tests not meeting guidelines	(100 - 96% compliance)
⊗ water quality is fair:	guidelines not met occasionally.	(95 - 86% compliance)
○ water quality is poor:	guidelines often not met.	(85 - 71% compliance)
● water quality is not acceptable	guidelines frequently not met.	(70% compliance and lower)

Source: Alberta Environmental Protection

Results

Overall, the quality of Alberta river water is fair to good, but recreational use is impaired for the North Saskatchewan, Bow and Oldman Rivers downstream of urban centres. Water quality tends to be poorer downstream of areas of significant urban, industrial or agricultural development. The variables which most commonly do not meet guidelines are fecal coliform bacteria, phosphorus and nitrogen.

Goal

To ensure that the high quality of Alberta's environment is maintained.

Measure

The percentage of tests which meet the appropriate guidelines are the base measure of surface water quality. These results are used to evaluate the quality of water with respect to three use categories: recreation, agriculture and the protection of aquatic life.

Target

To bring river water quality downstream of developed areas in line with upstream water quality conditions.

Water Quality

Methodology

Samples are collected on a monthly basis at two locations in each of the province's six major river systems.

Twenty water quality variables from each sample are compared with the appropriate guideline (except northern rivers which exclude the iron variable). The variables are placed into three groups pertaining to different river uses. Some variables, such as fecal coliform bacteria, are included in more than one category. Fecal coliform bacteria may indicate health risks to swimmers, and may affect the suitability of water for crop irrigation and livestock watering.

Strategies

Environmental Protection will:

- establish standards, guidelines and codes of practice for municipal water treatment and distribution systems, wastewater treatment and storm drainage facilities.
- Implement the Northern River Basins Study recommendation to adopt the Canadian Council of Ministers' of the Environment dissolved oxygen guideline.
- develop ambient environmental quality guidelines.

Agriculture, Food and Rural Development will:

- develop and extend technologies and management practices that protect, enhance and integrate our soil, water and other natural resources.
- initiate an "agricultural impact on water quality" monitoring program.

Standards

- Surface water quality is primarily evaluated against the Alberta Ambient Surface Water Quality Interim Guidelines (AWQG). Fecal coliform bacteria numbers are evaluated against the Canadian Water Quality Guidelines as Alberta guidelines have not been established.

- The AWQG do not include guidelines for substances such as pesticides and trace organic contaminants, although these are monitored, and guidelines are being developed. As the AWQG are expanded, the appearance of overall compliance may change.

Groundwater quality is measured in terms of the percentage of water samples from municipal wells which comply with Canadian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines. There are 223 municipal (potable) groundwater supplies in Alberta. Environmental Protection samples and tests municipal groundwater supplies. All cases where guidelines are not met are because of naturally occurring geological conditions.

Percentage of Groundwater Samples Not Meeting Guidelines

	Fluoride	Arsenic	Cadmium	Lead	All Others*
1994	4.0	0.4	0.4	0.4	0
1995	1.0	0	0	0	0
1996	5.2	0	0	0	0.3

** All others includes: boron, cyanide, nitrates, chromium, selenium, barium, mercury and organic compounds.*
Source: Alberta Environmental Protection

For additional measures, see the following ministries in the Appendix:

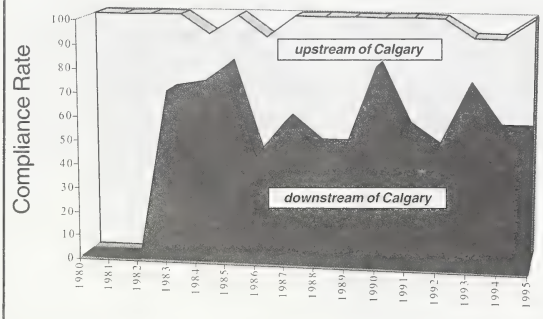
Environmental Protection
Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

Water Quality - Supplemental Information

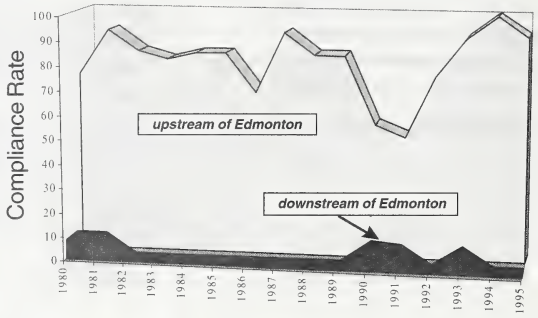
For most variables, water quality guidelines are met upstream of developed areas more frequently than downstream, reflecting the adverse effects of development. One of the variables which commonly does not meet the AWQG is total phosphorus. The graphs below illustrate compliance rates upstream and downstream of Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer and Lethbridge on the Bow, North Saskatchewan, Red Deer and Oldman Rivers respectively. Phosphorus promotes the growth of algae and aquatic weeds, which can have a negative impact on recreational use and the protection of aquatic life. Major sources of phosphorus include municipal effluents, fertilizers and livestock manure. Guidelines may occasionally be exceeded because of naturally occurring conditions (e.g. spring runoff).

Compliance with phosphorus guidelines varies. The most significant change has been in the Bow River. In 1982, Calgary's wastewater treatment plants began reducing phosphorus in their effluents, which dramatically reduced the number of times the guideline is exceeded in the Bow River. Planned wastewater treatment facility upgrades in Edmonton, Red Deer and Lethbridge should produce similar results.

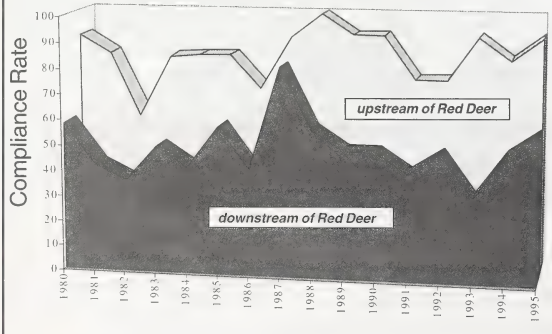
Bow River



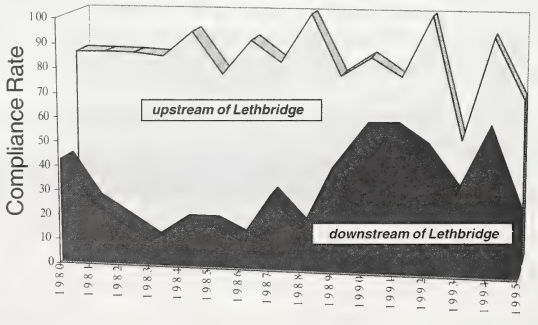
North Saskatchewan River



Red Deer River



Oldman River



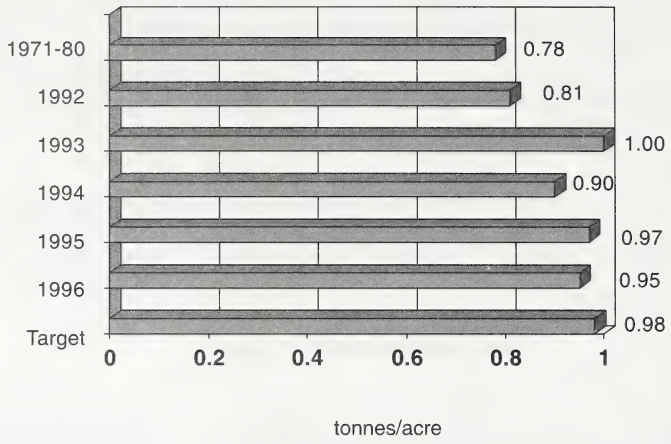
Source: Alberta Environmental Protection

Land Quality

The quality, health and productivity of Alberta's land base is vital to our health and to our economy. Ensuring that land is used wisely for agriculture, forestry, industrial use, municipal development, recreation and tourism, or other uses is critical to our economic, social and cultural well-being.

The indicator provides information on changes in crop yield over time as a proxy for land quality. There is currently no scientific measure available on soil quality.

Land Productivity



Source: Alberta Agricultural Statistics Yearbook, derived from Statistics Canada core data.

Results

Crop yield per acre has improved over the 1971-1980 baseline.

Goal

To ensure the high quality of Alberta's environment is maintained.

Measure

The science of soil quality is just evolving. Eventually we hope to have a better idea of the changes in the quality and productivity of Alberta's land base.

In the interim, changes in crop yield will be monitored as an indirect measure of land productivity. The ability of the land to sustain increasing yields indicates that land quality is being maintained.

Target

To increase crop yield per acre to 0.98 tonnes per acre by the year 2000.

Land Quality

Methodology

There are currently no comprehensive Canadian nor Alberta indicators for land or soil quality. We are able to test soil quality, but there is no map of soil quality for the province.

As a proxy, we are using crop yield on a tonnes per acre basis. Crop yield is an indirect measure of long term land productivity. Data is collected by Agriculture, Food and Rural Development for the various crops and is converted to a standard base of tonnes per acre of wheat.

Strategies

Agriculture, Food and Rural Development will:

- develop and extend technologies and management practices that protect, enhance and integrate soil, water and other natural resources.
- monitor the impact of the agriculture and food industry on soil, water and the larger ecosystem.
- manage White Area public lands for the long term benefit of all by maintaining a balance of development, use and conservation.

Agriculture, Food and Rural Development and **Environmental Protection** will work on developing a measure for assessing land quality changes.

Environmental Protection will protect and manage Alberta's natural heritage for present and future generations by:

- establishing acceptable levels of protection for natural resources and ecosystems.
- monitoring, assessing and taking action to protect natural resources and ecosystems.

Energy will ensure regulatory processes achieve fairness, conservation, safety, equity and protection of the environment.

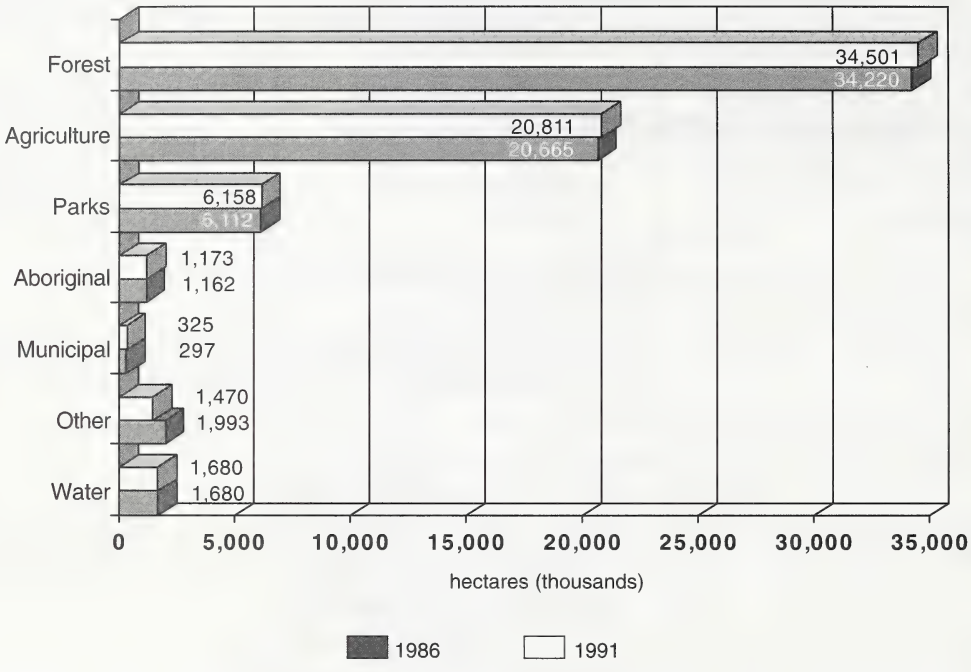
For additional measures, see the following ministries in the Appendix:

Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
Environmental Protection
Energy

Land Quality - Supplemental Information

Changes in land use may have implications on the sustainability of natural ecosystems over time. Monitoring the change in land used for municipalities will also indicate the effect of human activities on the land. The graph has not been updated to include 1996 data as most of the data will not be available until later in 1997.

Land Use Changes (1986 to 1991)



Source: Forestry Canada, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Alberta Environmental Protection and Alberta Municipal Affairs.

Appendix - Ministry Measures

This section contains the key performance measures for each ministry in the Alberta Government. The measures listed are those contained in business plans in the government's 1996-97 budget document, *Agenda '96*, and updated where possible based upon the government's 1997-98 budget document *Budget '97*. Ministries' 1996-97 annual reports, which contain performance information, are scheduled for release in September.

Each ministry has selected a set of key performance measures to track the success of its strategies in achieving its business plan goals. These same strategies also contribute to the success of the government in making progress towards the overall government business plan goals.

The following key ministry measures may provide additional detail on the core government measures and complement the information contained in the preceding section of this report. As the implementers of government policies and strategies designed to influence certain overall outcomes, ministry performance is integral to understanding overall government performance. The ministry measures also provide additional context for the core government measures, and add to our understanding of the factors influencing desired outcomes. They can also provide information on where specific improvements are necessary if we are to achieve our goals.

Advanced Education and Career Development

- Adult Participation Indicator
- Public Satisfaction Indicator
- Learner Satisfaction Indicator *(New)*
- Employability Indicator
- Annual Institutional Cost per Full-Load Equivalent Learner Indicator *(New)*
- Research Excellence Indicator
- Institutional Key Performance Indicators
- Client Satisfaction with Human Resource Policy Frameworks
- Client Satisfaction with Working Relations with Personnel Administration Office
- Client Satisfaction with Human Resource Regulatory Reform *(New)*

Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

- Alberta Farm Cash Receipts as a Percentage of Canadian Farm Cash Receipt
- Direct Government Program Payments to Alberta Farmers
- Alberta's Food and Beverage Industries' Value of Shipments
- Value of Out-of-Province Shipments of Agriculture and Food Products
- Contribution of Alberta's Agriculture, Food and Beverage Industries to Provincial GDP
- Employment in Agriculture and Food
- Land Productivity Indicator *(New)*

Community Development

- Level of Community Self Reliance
- Level of Support for Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation Activities
- Private Sector Funding to Arts and Cultural Groups *(New)*
- Eligible Seniors Receive the Support to Which They are Entitled
- Appropriateness of Income Support Provided to Lower-Income Seniors *(New)*
- Satisfaction of Seniors and Other Clients with Services *(New)*
- Satisfaction of Albertans with Human Rights Protection
- Number of Community-Based Heritage Preservation Projects Assisted *(New)*
- Visitation at Provincial Historic Sites and Museums
- Customer Satisfaction at Provincial Historic Sites and Museums
- Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission Service Effectiveness

* *New* - introduced since 1996-97.

Appendix - Ministry Measures

Economic Development and Tourism

- Manufacturing and Service Industry Investment
- Manufacturing and Service Industry Exports
- Manufacturing Shipments - All Sectors
- Manufacturing Shipments - Advanced Technology
- Number of Alberta Exporters *(New)*
- Tourism Revenue
- Business Formations - Incorporations
- Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission Net Revenue Contributed to the General Revenue Fund
- Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission Administrative Productivity
- Return to Charities *(New)*

Education

- Provincial Achievement Tests in Grades 3, 6 and 9
- Provincial Diploma Examinations
- School Completion
- Parent Satisfaction with Child's Education
- Students Satisfied with Quality of Education
- Satisfaction of Parents of Children with Severe Special Needs
- Per Student Spending *(New)*
- Cost of Department Operations *(New)*
- Parent and Student Satisfaction with Aspects of Teaching *(New)*
- Parent, Student and Public Satisfaction with Graduates' Preparation for Work and Further Study *(New)*
- Parent and Public Satisfaction with Value for Money
- Spending on Instruction and Administration
- Average Annual Equalized Property Tax Rate
- Parent and Student Satisfaction with Computer Skills Access *(New)*
- Parent Satisfaction with Information on their Child's Progress *(New)*

Energy

- Industry Employment, Output and Exports
- Energy Industry Capital Investment
- Synthetic Crude Oil Production Costs per Barrel *(New)*
- Non-Renewable Resource Revenue *(New)*
- Preservation of Public Safety and Environment
- Conventional Oil Reserve Additions *(New)*
- Solution Gas Production *(New)*
- Stakeholder Confidence in Regulatory System
- Cost of Ministry Operations

Environmental Protection

- Air Quality Index *(New)*
- Surface Water Quality Index *(New)*
- Area Designated as Park and Natural Reserves
- Reduction of Municipal Solid Waste to Landfills
- Timber Sustainability *(New)*
- Health of Known Fish and Wildlife Populations
- Biochemical Oxygen Demand Released per Tonne of Pulp Produced

Appendix - Ministry Measures

Executive Council

- Northern Alberta Development Council Client Satisfaction
- Leveraged Funding for the NADC Bursary Partnership Program
- Satisfaction with Government Information
- Public Affairs Bureau Public Customer Satisfaction
- Public Affairs Bureau Internal Government Client Satisfaction
- Public Affairs Bureau Private Sector Supplier Satisfaction

Family and Social Services

- Expected to Work Clients per 1,000 Working Age Population
- Proportion of Employment Initiatives Clients Not Receiving Welfare Benefits 12 Months After Graduation or Placement
- Duration of Welfare for Clients Expected to Work
- Proportion of Welfare Cases Remaining Closed After 12 Months
- Proportion of Single-Parent Welfare Cases with Child Support Orders or Agreements
- Percentage of Persons with Disabilities Service Providers with Policies that Meet Ministry Core Standards *(New)*
- Percentage of Persons with Disabilities Service Providers in Compliance with Ministry Core Standards
- Percentage of Children who stay Free from Abuse or Neglect While in the Ministry's Care
- Percentage of Day Care Centres Meeting Critical Government Standards

Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs

- Client Satisfaction With Ministry Services

Health

- Percentage of Albertans Rating Access to Health Services "Easy" or "Very Easy"
- Percentage of Albertans Reporting Failure to Receive Needed Care *(New)*
- Percent of General Practitioner Services Obtained Within Albertans' Home Region *(New)*
- Life Expectancy at Birth
- Percentage of Albertans Rating Their Health as "Excellent" or "Very Good"
- Percent of Low Birthweight Babies *(New)*
- Provincial Rate of Injury Deaths Including Suicide *(New)*
- Childhood Immunization Coverage *(New)*
- Number of Deaths Due to Cervical Cancer *(New)*
- Percent of Albertans Who Do Not Smoke *(New)*
- Percent of Albertans Rating Quality of Care Received "Excellent" or "Good"
- Breast Screening Rates *(New)*

Justice

- Public Satisfaction with the Justice System
- Percentage of Albertans Who Have Reported Being a Victim of Crime in the Past Year
- Court Delays for Trial
- Number of Escapes from Secure Custody
- Per Diem Cost per Offender in Adult Custody
- Government Client Satisfaction with Justice's Provision of Legal Services
- Client Satisfaction with the Maintenance Enforcement Program
- Client Satisfaction with the Public Trustee's Office
- Number of Eligible People Receiving Legal Aid Services

Appendix - Ministry Measures

Labour

Person Days Lost as a Result of Labour Disputes and Work Stoppages
Workplace Days Lost to Injury or Death
Number of Workplace Changes Introduced Which Support Economic Development
Improvement in Public Access to Services
Client Satisfaction with Ministry Services
Number of New Partnerships (including Delegated Administrative Organizations)
Number of Services Outsourced or Privatized
Reduction in Repeat Offenders Under Employment Standards Legislation

Municipal Affairs

Client Satisfaction with Local Government Restructuring Process
Percentage of Municipal Property Assessments that Comply with Regulations
Housing Assistance Directed to Low-Income, High-Need Clients
Cost of Social Housing
Customer Satisfaction with Registry Services

Public Works, Supply and Services

Customer Satisfaction with Capital Project Delivery Services
Customer Satisfaction with Information Technology Services
Customer Satisfaction with Telecommunication Services
Customer Satisfaction with Procurement Services
Customer Satisfaction with Property Management Services
Average Operating Cost per Square Metre of Owned Space
Number of Alberta Businesses Using the Open Bidding Service *(New)*
Procurement Administrative Costs

Science, Research and Information Technology

Alberta Research Council Economic Impact
Alberta Research Council Client Job Creation
Mission Effectiveness
R&D Funding from the Private Sector
Government Investment in Alberta Research Council
Ratio of Private Sector R&D to Government Funding

Transportation and Utilities

Percentage of North-South Trade Corridor Twinned *(New)*
Road Safety (Highway Collision Rates per 1000 Licensed Drivers)
Mechanical Safety of Commercial Vehicles
Transportation of Dangerous Goods
Primary Highway Pavement Condition
Effectiveness of Emergency and Disaster Response
Reduction in Commercial Vehicle Overloads

Appendix - Ministry Measures

Treasury

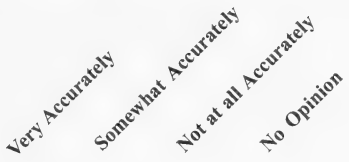
- Alberta's Annual Surplus (Deficit)
- Relative Provincial and Municipal Tax Load on Albertans
- Value of Market Capital Raised in Alberta
- Alberta's Investment Rates of Return
- Alberta's Cost of Borrowing relative to Canada's in the Canadian Bond Market

Feedback Questionnaire

The purpose of measuring performance and making these reports public is to give Albertans useful information about government's performance in core areas. By focusing on priorities, setting targets for performance and measuring progress, we can make sure that we are getting the best results for the dollars we spend. Overall, the purpose is to keep improving services for Albertans.

Given that purpose for the *Measuring Up* report:

1. How accurately do the core measures assess the performance of government?



2. Is government measuring the right things?

❑ Yes ❑ No

If no, what additional top three measures should government consider?

1._____

2._____

3._____

What three measures would you take out?

1._____

2._____

3._____

Thank you for your feedback.
Please return this questionnaire by August 29, 1997 to:

Alberta Treasury
Room 305, Terrace Building
9515 - 107 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2C3
or
FAX to:
(403) 427-4695
Monday through Friday
between 8:15 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
or
E-mail to:
measuringup@treas.gov.ab.ca

3. What specific information should be included to make this report more useful to you?

_____

_____

4. What measures would you like more information on?
Please give your top three.

1._____

2._____

3._____

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